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Inter-Arab Affairs

Cordon States Foreign Ministers Meet in Beirut

Al-Shar', al-Hasan Exchange Views

JN2708151293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1235 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, 27 Aug (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met this afternoon with Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, on the sidelines of the coordination meeting of the Arab parties involved in the peace process, scheduled to begin later today.

During the meeting, the two ministers touched on the importance of Arab coordination and a unified Arab position. They exchanged views on the topics to be discussed and the upcoming bilateral round of talks.

Coordination Session Begins

NC2708132393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1239 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers conference began at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut a short time ago to coordinate the Arab position before the 11th round of bilateral peace talks in Washington. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent at the Bristol Hotel reports:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The Arab foreign ministers concerned with the peace talks began their meeting in the Bristol Hotel at 1530 today. Attending were Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, and PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi. The Arab delegations accompanying the ministers also participated. A diplomatic source close to the Lebanese delegation said there is a tendency to agree to participate in the 11th round of talks. He said the meetings are intended to maintain coordination during the next stage.

The Palestinian demonstration in front of the Bristol Hotel continues. Five demonstrators entered the hotel to meet Palestinian delegation officials to brief them on their memorandum and demands. Three minutes after the Arab foreign ministers' meeting began, a member of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, withdrew for a few moments, going to his suite to meet the five Palestinians selected from the demonstrators to negotiate their demands. [end recording]

Palestinians Hold Demonstration

NC2708140393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1335 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Palestinian demonstration in front of the Bristol Hotel has just dispersed. Dozens of Palestinians took part in the demonstration, calling on the Palestinian delegation to withdraw from the negotiations because it is contributing to the liquidation of the Palestinian issue. They tried to enter the hotel by force. Prevented by security officials from doing so, they gathered in front of the hotel and chanted slogans.

Faruq Qaddumi and Sa'ib 'Urayqat went to the entrance of the hotel to speak to the demonstrators. Qaddumi spoke first, advising them to be patient until the economic blockade [reference to PLO financial crisis] ends, but his voice was drowned out by the chanting of the demonstrators.

'Urayqat also tried to speak to them [indistinct recording of 'Uraqyat's remarks]. 'Urayqat then met a delegation from the demonstrators in his hotel room. Security officials had to fire two shots to disperse the demonstration.

Al-Shar' Addresses Session

JN2808083293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut—The coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab sides concerned with the peace process will resume in Beirut this morning. The meeting, attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation, began in Beirut yesterday afternoon. The meeting was also attended by the host country's delegation led by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, an Egyptian delegation led by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, a Jordanian delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan, and a Palestinian delegation headed by PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi.

Al-Shar' spoke at the meeting's opening session. He began by thanking the Lebanese president, government, and people for hosting the meeting. Al-Shar' added: For many long years, Lebanon has shouldered immense responsibilities on behalf of all Arabs. Lebanon has held out, resisted occupation, and thwarted Israeli schemes throughout the past 10 years. He affirmed that the recent Israeli aggression on Lebanon, just like the 1982 Israeli Lebanon invasion, was a failure. For Israel has failed to drive the Lebanese people and resistance into desperation and frustration. On the contrary, Lebanese national unity has been enhanced. Moreover, resistance fighters are now aware, more than ever before, of the mission they need to accomplish: namely, to epitomize the Lebanese people's will to remain steadfast.

The foreign minister went on to say: Israel has failed to brand national resistance with terrorism although it consistently has attempted to do so. The statements made by Lebanese resistance officials have shown that they are aware of their mission, which is to terminate Israeli occupation. Resistance is elicited by occupation. Once the occupation is terminated, the Lebanese people and resistance will have achieved victory over the Israeli aggressors.

Al-Shar' affirmed that Lebanon's steadfastness reflects Syria's steadfastness, and vice versa. He added that the steadfastness of both Lebanon and Syria must be derived

from the Arabs' steadfastness. He indicated that Lebanese-Syrian coordination is a safety valve in the face of Israeli arrogance and intransigence. This coordination is designed to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

Al-Shar' said: Syria and Lebanon are serious about their efforts to achieve peace, but without conceding Arab rights. Moreover, it must be made clear that there should be complete withdrawal from their occupied territories within the framework of comprehensive peace. This coordination is gaining further momentum, strength, and breadth day in and day out. It is meant to promote the interests of Lebanon, Syria, and other Arab sides, as well. Consequently, it must be met with the appreciation of all Arabs.

The foreign minister also spoke on recent Palestinian developments, saying: We regret the emergence of some problems on the Palestinian scene. We are not aware whether or not the media are exaggerating these problems. At any rate, we support the efforts to enhance Palestinian national unity and achieve a cohesive Palestinian position. We also support the continuation of efforts to achieve Palestinian-Arab coordination, involving the sides attending this meeting, because it would safeguard Palestinian rights. He wished that the problems facing the Palestinians would be transitory. He also hoped that the PLO's financial crisis would not make any room for political concessions.

Al-Shar' added: As a matter of fact, we know little of what is happening on the Palestinian scene, although I have recently met with my brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and discussed the issue with him. Nonetheless, I would like to say that the complexity of the Palestinian issue has rendered it a sort of logarithm. What further complicates this issue are the differing and conflicting statements by Palestinian officials. Hence, I can say that we do not know a great deal about what is taking place on the Palestinian scene. I have learned only one thing from my brother Abu-al-Lutf, which is that they [the Palestinians] approve of the Gaza-Jericho First option.

The foreign minister went on to say: We in Syria support the Palestinian people and their rights. We support the Palestinian brothers. We do not claim or pretend that we are more Palestinian than the Palestinians. However, it is our strong hope that this complicated and thorny issue will not result in a great setback for the Palestinian people's rights and the peace process. The Palestinian people have endured and suffered a great deal. Israel has placed them under siege, repression, discrimination, and starvation. However, they, just like the fraternal Lebanese people, have resisted occupation and shown their steadfastness. Hence, we support them.

On the need for coordination among the Arab sides concerned with the peace process, al-Shar' said: Coordination among us is extremely important. At this point in time, it might be more important than ever before, particularly because the upcoming round of talks and the one after it could mark an important juncture in the peace process.

Concluding his speech, al-Shar' said: We must maintain coordination and consultations among ourselves, even if it is kept at a minimum level. There is a need for us to inform one another of our views so that negative aspects or obstacles may be avoided.

Participation in Talks Agreed

NC2708182693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The cordon states foreign ministers have decided to form a committee to write the final statement at the end of their session at 1830 today. Our correspondent at the Bristol Hotel sent us this dispatch.

[Begin recording] A source in the Lebanese delegation disclosed that Palestinian delegation head Faruq Qaddumi has expressed reservations about Palestine's participation in the 11th round of talks scheduled to convene in Washington on 31 August because the rounds of talks over the past 22 months have made no progress and because the Israeli pressure and financial crisis has continued. However, the Arab Foreign Ministers Buwayz 'Amr Musa, Faruq al-Shar', and Talal al-Hasan interceded to convince him of the need to participate in the talks proceeding from Arab solidarity and coordination among the participating delegations.

The source said that at the outset of the meeting Minister Buwayz stressed the importance of Arab coordination and proposed the agenda of the meeting as follows:

- Response to the invitation of the U.S. and Russian cosponsors to attend the 11th round.
- Assessment of the 10th round of talks, which did not produce positive results.
- Rabin's latest statement that was not encouraging.
- Differences in the Palestinian arena.

Qaddumi notified the conferees of the Palestinian delegation's reservation about participation in the 11th round of talks.

Then Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan made a statement in which he praised Arab coordination and stressed the need to exchange information. He inquired about internal Palestinian differences.

Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' spoke of the Israeli aggression against the south and repression in the occupied Arab land. He said that Christopher's visit is a positive factor that prompts us to participate in the next round of talks.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa stressed the need to participate in the next round of talks. He said he believed

that the papers exchanged between certain Arab delegations and the Israeli delegation are a factor indicating progress.

The source said that Qaddumi spoke of the Palestinian differences, saying they are not deep and are only a part of the democratic game to express positions.

At 1815 a committee was formed to formulate the final statement that will be studied during tomorrow's meeting.

At 1830, the heads of the delegations began to review the deliberations of the 10th round. The session ended at 1850 and will be resumed at 0900 tomorrow.

Buwayz: Ministers Share Same View

NC2708185893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1650 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] At the end of the Arab foreign ministers meeting today, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that all delegations share the same common view. He said: We attended the peace conference for specific goals and Rabin's latest statement runs counter to these considerations. Buwayz emphasized that the unity of Arab ranks have never been more manifest than at today's meeting, which is a healthy sign. He noted that either there will be a comprehensive peace or no peace at all.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Have you agreed to propose the issue of south Lebanon at the 11th round of talks?

[Buwayz] There is no need to agree on this subject. We think it is the duty of the Lebanese negotiating delegation and of the Arab delegations to propose this issue at the negotiating table. At a time when we look forward to peace in the region, Israel commits aggression that might destroy peace.

[Correspondent] You ("expressed) relative optimism although [words indistinct] Syrian Vice President Khaddam said at B'abda today....

[Buwayz, interrupts] We did not speak of relative optimism. We clearly said that speculation about the next round of talks remains extremely difficult. [end recording]

Need for Coordination Stressed

NC2808085493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Aug 93

[News conference by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents following the cordon states foreign ministers meeting in Beirut on 27 August—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Buwayz] ...I think in the next session of the [words indistinct]. We dealt with the situation inside the occupied Palestinian territories, the situation in southern Lebanon, and the pressures Israel is exerting on all levels. We also dealt with the pressures on most Arab states by certain international parties. We can say that there is total and absolute understanding and that there is a common and unified view to cope with the upcoming challenges. A final statement will be issued by the conference in this regard tomorrow, God willing.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] We have already stated that [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin's statement undermines the peace process and the bases of the Madrid conference. These bases were clear. We did not attend the peace conference haphazardly. We attended this conference after several letters and visits laying down the framework and goals of this conference. What we heard yesterday totally contradicts the bases of this peace and constitutes a stab to the next possible round of talks.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] The Palestinian brothers are facing difficulties resulting from Israeli and international pressures at home and abroad. We fully understand their situation and express total solidarity with them. I expect we will adopt a unified position.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] We urge the Arab states, which are supposed to back and s...pport the Arab negotiator, to appreciate their responsibilities and play their role in full in supporting the Arab negotiator and not allow the use of pressure tactics—whether financial, political, or economic—against the Arab negotiator at this particular time.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] So far we have reviewed and discussed developments. We hope to adopt a unified decision tomorrow, God willing.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, the Arab line in the 11th round [words indistinct] along this line?

[Buwayz] We listened to statements by the ministers and the heads of the delegations. We also listened to remarks about the 10th round and the obstacles and difficulties faced during that round. We began outlining a clear view to deal with the future challenges in terms of content and form.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] the possibility of separate agreements. Did you discuss this issue?

[Buwayz] We still think that Arab coordination and support are needed on all tracks. We still think that either there will be comprehensive peace or nothing. No one party can shoulder the responsibility of adopting a decision in violation of the others. Therefore, a distinction must be made between working separately to adopt [word indistinct] decision outside the framework of the peace process and perhaps some technical steps that are part of [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] I can say with confidence that there is complete agreement in views between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations regarding the future of the peace process. I can say that there was an identity of views at this meeting. I think that unity has never been so evident as it was today.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, do you estimate that the 11th round [words indistinct] negotiations as positive?

[Buwayz] I think that speculation now about the outcome of the next round is difficult. If we judge by the promises made by some parties, particularly the United States, there is relative optimism. But, indeed, I think it is too early to speculate about the results.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, after each round Israel conducts raids against Lebanon. What are the conferees' views on this?

[Buwayz] I have already stated that Israeli attacks against Lebanon are not new. Attacks were launched against Lebanon before the peace process. Israel is using southern Lebanon to serve its purposes in several directions: sometimes to settle internal accounts between the Israeli Government and the opposition; sometimes for considerations it thinks are military or security; sometimes for considerations pertaining to relations between Israel and the international community or the United States; and sometimes for considerations pertaining to the peace process. As far as we are concerned, the delegations must maintain total independence in their negotiations and in confronting the Israeli foe in isolation from any pressure that may take place, be it military, security, political, or economic. The only thing that serves our national and pan-Arab interests in the negotiations lies in the performance of the delegations and the possibility of their isolation from pressures Israel may use.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] We said from the beginning that either there will be comprehensive peace or nothing. Therefore, any attempt by any party to conclude separate agreements with Israel will not serve the cause. But there is perhaps need for some limited steps within the framework of the peace process that can prepare for future progress. We will discuss every case separately when it is raised.

Musa on Peace Talks, Palestinian Crisis

NC2708192693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, 27 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that Egypt conducted contacts on the negotiating process before and after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region.

He said that the current stage of the negotiations is very critical, whether as regards the process itself or the region's developments such as the Israeli escalatory measures in southern Lebanon, the Palestinian stand, and reports on the Syrian front.

In a radio interview in Beirut this evening, Musa said there is call for optimism, but it requires intense diplomatic effort to support the Arab stand in general and to activate the peace process. He added that this process has now shifted from general discussions to a more serious stage of dealing with papers and proposals.

He noted: We expect to see Israeli intransigence and procrastination in the next round and we also might see flexibility and progress. The situation is at a crossroads and thus we do not rule out the possibility of progress. Therefore, there is a feeling of some unreserved optimism.

He denied that Egypt has new proposals for the Arab parties for the next round. He said: We are helping the Arab delegations in the negotiations when these delegations ask for Egypt's support. However, we do not propose or dictate anything and we are willing to help all Arab brothers.

He expected the Arab parties to reach a declaration of principles in the next round and said that this is not a basic condition for all the four tracks. Progress on any track, he went on, will serve other tracks because it will create a favorable atmosphere for other courses. He expressed his hope that the Palestinian crisis will not affect the progress of the talks, affirming that the current crisis is exaggerated and not as dangerous as we see it.

Musa expressed hope that 1993 will not end without progress in the negotiations because such progress is necessary. He said that the cosponsors of the peace conference, especially the United States, are required to play the role of full partner and put forth proposals and papers to resolve the crises and existing problems and that the U.S. sponsor should intervene with an active role.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statements, Musa said: We should not necessarily regard them as a final Israeli stand. He stressed that the Golan issue cannot be resolved separately, nor can Syria abandon part of its territory because this is not possible either on a Syrian level or an Arab level.

As regards Lebanon, he said, Resolution 425 is very clear. He expressed his hope that the (?negotiating) process will lead to the full implementation of Resolution 425 in exchange for a comprehensive peace within the context of a comprehensive settlement that will secure a solution on all fronts.

On the new [Israeli] military reinforcements on the border in south Lebanon, he said that the shelling must be stopped because any escalation of the situation will harm the entire [peace] process and therefore we are against such an escalation.

Answering a question on whether Egypt is acting indirectly to prevent Israel from committing aggression

against south Lebanon, the Egyptian foreign minister said Egyptian efforts aim to avert any escalation and aggression.

Musa Assesses Meeting

NC2808074093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Beirut by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Musa] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab states directly concerned with the peace process, in addition to Egypt, started yesterday. You chaired Egypt's delegation to the meeting. Can you tell us what has been achieved at the Beirut meeting so far?

[Musa] The Beirut meeting included Arab states concerned with peace. The main task of this meeting is to coordinate stands and prepare for the next round of peace talks, the 11th round. Of course we are considering the present situation, the outcome of the previous round, developments since the last round, and the best way to guarantee success for the peace process and safeguard Arab rights. This will be included in the final statement the meeting's participants will issue.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Minister, everyone is anticipating a united Arab stand during the meeting, particularly since the meeting is being held at a very critical and delicate time. Are there Arab proposals or ideas different from those put forward during previous coordination meetings?

[Musa] You are right in saying that the stage is critical, particularly in view of regional developments in between the two rounds of talks. These developments have affected the general climate of the peace process. There is also talk about the internal Palestinian situation. All this has in fact led to some ambiguity, or rather to some developments. Not all these developments are positive; some of them are negative. However, there were positive developments. Statements about peace have been very active and were based on working papers and proposals exchanged among the parties concerned. The American sponsor played an active role. Egypt, as well, performed an active task to consolidate the peace process. Naturally, our mission is different from that of the American sponsor. As an Arab state, we support Arab rights and the Arab stance within the framework of what was agreed during the Madrid talks—I mean the basis for the Madrid conference and the negotiating process. This is what makes this stage more critical than previous ones, because negotiations have started to tackle specific proposals along all the tracks. This requires much precise work and more caution in statements so that the land-for-peace process can be consolidated. This is the essence of our discussion within the five-state group.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Minister, you said you briefed the foreign ministers of the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process on the contacts the Egyptian leadership and diplomatic body has had, particularly since Egypt has been playing an active role lately. What is the Arab foreign ministers' reaction to the recent Egyptian diplomatic endeavors?

[Musa] We are exchanging views on this. I brief them on what we are doing and present our viewpoint, as well as our impressions on current contacts. I also listen to reports by the heads of the negotiating delegations. This is the basis of our consultations.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Apart from preparations for the 11th round and the assessment of previous rounds of Arab-Israeli peace talks, were other topics discussed during the meetings?

[Musa] No, only the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about the Israeli aggression on south Lebanon?

[Musa] Our stand on this matter is clear. Any aggression on the sovereignty of the Lebanese state within its internationally recognized borders is a violation of international law, of UN Security Council resolutions, and international legitimacy. Such an aggression certainly spoils the general climate of the peace process. The most important thing for us is not to lose the peace process, because it is the only available option at present.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The Palestinian-Israeli track is the most complicated of all in the peace process. How are the Palestinians and Arab states in general viewing this track during the Beirut meetings?

[Musa] We are discussing the circumstances surrounding the next round in light of what happened in between the rounds as well as the outcome of the previous round. The Palestinian track is certainly in a more difficult situation. However, we all are doing our utmost on the basis of the Palestinian stands and proposals. We are not formulating the Palestinian stand. It is the Palestinians who develop, decide, consider, and announce their own stands. We only try to help whenever this is asked of us, or when we see this as necessary or possible. But we do this within the framework of the established Arab principles: implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, the Palestinian people's lawful national rights, full withdrawal, and so forth.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Some statements coming from Israel and Jerusalem indicate that views are perhaps getting closer.

[Musa] Yes, there is indeed room for some optimism, but not complete optimism.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But the Israeli statements always ignore Jerusalem, while Arabs insist on Jerusalem.

[Musa] East Jerusalem is part of the lands occupied in 1967. Our Arab stand, or rather the stand of international legitimacy, is very clear in this connection. We are following up on this matter. However, it is not a matter of slogans and outcries. The point is how to restore our rights, that is all.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you.

[Musa] Thank you.

Final Statement Issued

NC2808094093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Aug 93

["Final Statement" of the conference of foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process, read by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at a news conference held at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut on 28 August—live]

[Text] The final statement of the Arab coordination meeting held in Beirut on 27 and 28 August 1993:

At the invitation of his excellency the foreign minister of the Lebanese Republic, the foreign ministers of the Arab states taking part in the bilateral peace talks—the Syrian Arab Republic, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Palestine, the Lebanese Republic—and the foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt held a meeting in Beirut on 27 and 28 August 1993 as part of the coordination and consultation process among them. Also attending the meeting were the heads and members of the Arab delegations to the bilateral peace talks and a number of diplomats.

During the meeting the ministers focused their discussion on the results of the 10th round of bilateral negotiations held from 15 June to 1 July 1993 and on the contacts held by the U.S. Administration, in its capacity as one of the sponsors of the peace process, with the parties concerned in the area. Referring to the U.S. Administration's announcement regarding its intention to continue to undertake the role of a full partner and honest broker in the peace process, the ministers affirmed the need for the U.S. role to be based on the principles of international legitimacy, including the bases and principles of the Madrid Conference, to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

The ministers focused in particular on the outrageous Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory, particularly against southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa', and the heavy loss of life and property. The ministers expressed their concern at Israeli statements that run counter to the principles on which the peace process is based, cast a heavy shadow over the next round, and raise doubts about the seriousness of Israel's abidance by these principles, particularly the principle of land for peace.

The ministers also discussed the invitation the cosponsors of the peace process have addressed to the parties concerned to resume the bilateral peace talks and participate in the 11th round, which begins in Washington on 31 August 1993.

Following extensive deliberations, the ministers agreed on the following:

1. The Arab parties participating in the peace process emphasize their adherence to solidarity and coordination among themselves and their commitment to establish comprehensive and just peace in the region on the basis of the principle of land for peace and the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel's total withdrawal from all the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and UN Security Council Resolution 425 which calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from the Lebanese territory to the internationally recognized border.

2. The Arab parties participating in the peace talks emphasize their commitment to the principle of a comprehensive solution in line with the principles and resolutions on which the peace process was founded.

3. The Arab parties participating in the peace process condemn the repeated Israeli attacks on Lebanese territories and their recent serious escalation. They also condemn the policy of isolating Jerusalem, the acts of repression, persecution, siege, and settlement-building, and Israel's arbitrary practices in the occupied Arab Palestinian territories. They affirm that resisting occupation is a legitimate right of self-defense and defense of sovereignty in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

4. The Arab parties participating in the peace process urge the peace conference sponsors and the world community to make it binding on Israel to adopt the necessary and immediate steps and measures to create an appropriate climate for the success of the current negotiations. Foremost among these measures are: halting attacks on Lebanese territories, halting settlement-building in all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem, releasing Lebanese and Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons and detention camps, showing respect for human rights in the occupied Arab territories by implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, ending the blockade of the occupied Palestinian territories and the isolation of Jerusalem, and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for the return of all Palestinian deportees to their country.

5. The ministers emphasize the need to forge comprehensive and effective Arab solidarity as the ideal framework for defending legitimate Arab rights.

6. The Arab parties participating in the peace process reiterate their demand to the U.S. sponsor of the peace conference to play a full partner's role and to develop this role in an effective and objective way that will

guarantee that the principles and foundations of the peace process will be totally and honestly observed. This particularly applies to the land-for-peace principle and implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and is designed to halt the current prevarication about implementing these resolutions.

7. The Arab parties participating in the bilateral negotiations declare that they agree to participate in the 11th round of talks in Washington.

8. The Arab parties participating in the peace process have agreed to hold the next coordination meeting in Cairo.

9. The ministers express thanks and appreciation to the Lebanese president, Government, and people for hosting this conference and the warm welcome they accorded the conferees.

Ministers Give News Conference

NC2808101993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0828 GMT 28 Aug 93

[News conference by Foreign Ministers Faris Buwayz of Lebanon, Faruq al-Shar' of Syria, and 'Amr Musa of Egypt and PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi with unidentified correspondents at the conclusion of their meeting at the Bristol hotel in Beirut—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency, reports say that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres [words indistinct] meeting with U.S. Secretary Christopher. Do you believe that this meeting can push the 11th round ahead?

[Buwayz] First of all, we have not been informed about the goals and agenda of that visit. I believe that it is premature to speculate about the results of that expected meeting.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, you noted yesterday that there was a decision, or a sort of decision to support the PLO and ease the economic and political pressures on it to help it overcome its financial crisis.

[Buwayz] During the talks, we voiced full solidarity with the PLO in the critical situation it is going through. We believe that this matter is not part of the statement we address to world public opinion on the peace process. It is a matter that has to do with efforts, consultations, and coordination that might be undertaken by Arab states concerned with the issue.

[Correspondent] I have a question for Minister al-Shar'. You have been cited as saying that the talks U.S. Secretary Christopher held in the region were positive and encouraging [words indistinct]. In this context, what did you talk about, and what are [words indistinct]

[Al-Shar'] In fact, Christopher's tour of the region marked the beginning of an effort by the new U.S. Administration. True, what we heard from Christopher was reassuring and positive to some extent, that is, in terms of his reiteration that the United States will play a full-partner and clean-mediator role.

Christopher made a statement in Damascus in which he explained that a clean mediator does not favor one party at the expense of the other in the peace process. However, this U.S. position must be put to the test. Only through experience and through the U.S. exercise of that role can we make a final judgment. We cannot view these statements as sufficient in themselves, unless words are turned into deeds.

[Correspondent] The enemy's prime minister has recently announced that Resolution 425 has been overlooked. On what basis then do you go to the next round?

[Buwayz] We went to the peace talks after consultations with and messages and assurances from the American sponsor. These assurances clearly referred to the two conference sponsors' commitment to implement that resolution and their admission that it should be implemented. We are in the course of negotiations. If one was to expect a rapid solution in the first or second round, perhaps there would have been no justification for holding negotiations.

[Correspondent] Do you expect the 11th round to culminate in a declaration of principles along the different Arab tracks?

[Al-Shar'] It is hard to predict at this time. During our coordination meeting, we exchanged views on such expectations. We cannot anticipate things. Of course, we hope progress will be made along all the tracks, because we are seeking a just and comprehensive solution based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 425 concerning Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, according to some reports, withdrawal could take place from some Palestinian territory. Did the conference hold in Beirut discuss [words indistinct]?

[Qaddumi] First, this meeting was not held to discuss Palestinian affairs. Second, not everything that is being said is correct—that there will be withdrawals. We must not float on an inch of water. The work we are doing is a political struggle. There is no other field for political struggle. Therefore, we are conducting a political struggle to win the world to our side. If something comes out of it, it will be all right. If not, it will also be all right. But this struggle is imperative because this is a historical course. The United States dominated the United Nations and the Security Council after World War II [as heard], and it wants to draw the Middle East map. We are all struggling so this map will not be according to the Sykes-Picot agreement or the Palestine partition resolution. This is a political struggle. We have to take this course. The balance of powers is not in our favor. But it is necessary to improve the balance of powers and continue this struggle. We know that those who propose plans here and there are not serious.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Israeli officials recently affirmed that they are ready to withdraw from the south if [words indistinct]. What is your response to this matter? Will the negotiating delegation to the 11th round carry anything in this regard?

[Buwayz] The Israeli position is still ambiguous regarding the issue of withdrawal from southern Lebanon, at least with regard to total withdrawal to beyond the internationally recognized border. Therefore, the talk about an offer of withdrawal so far is incorrect, as it has not been raised. Regarding what the Lebanese Government will do if such withdrawal takes place, this will be up to what the Lebanese Government decides regarding the size and nature of the forces that might one day be sent. At any rate, when Israel commits itself to total withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territory to beyond the internationally recognized border—a clear and unequivocal withdrawal—then we will discuss the matter.

[Correspondent] Have you agreed on new ideas for the negotiations or will you pursue the previous ideas, even though no results have been achieved?

[Unidentified speaker] Who is the question addressed to?

[Correspondent] Whoever wants to answer it.

[Unidentified speaker] No one wants to.

[Dutch Radio Correspondent, in English] Could each of you explain what do you expect from the next round now to start in Washington?

[Buwayz, in English] I think that what we expect from this next round is very clear progress concerning the application of the international resolution. Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 concerning Lebanon. We think that these resolutions were considered as the basis of this peace conference and considered that we don't need more than a very short time to be accepted and to be implemented if there is a good faith from the Israeli side.

[Correspondent] One of the Lebanese papers reported today that there is an idea raised by Faruq Qaddumi about a joint delegation [words indistinct] and that you [words indistinct] Mr. Peres said yesterday he approves withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho [words indistinct] security with Israel?

[Musa] Regarding the idea raised by brother Abu-Lutf, we did not study or discuss this idea, but there were initial comments. The matter is still open and will be considered if necessary.

[Qaddumi] Regarding Peres, based on our experience with him, he says but does not do. He makes statements to improve Israel's image. He is not the effective man in Israel. Rabin is the effective man. As for saying "if," we do not respond to hypothetical question. The proverb says: I heard what you said and I was pleased, but when I saw what you did, I wondered.

Musa 'Cautiously Optimistic'

NC2808103393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Beirut a short time ago. He made the following statement at Beirut International Airport:

[Begin recording] To state it clearly, I am cautiously but not absolutely optimistic. I possess a certain measure of optimism, particularly if one compares the situation at the beginning of the negotiating process with the situation today. Much ground has been covered, stages have been passed. Instead of discussing generalities, we have moved to the stage of discussing measures, then basic issues, and finally documents about the details. True, no agreement has been reached on anything yet but all that has happened is important in the context of developing the negotiations to the point of dealing with basic issues such as land for peace. [end recording]

Musa on Withdrawal Prospects

NC2808131193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Beirut, 28 Aug (MENA)—In a statement at Beirut Airport and in response to a question on the Gaza-Jericho proposal, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that if the Palestinian party accepts it, we will accept it. We do not object to what the Palestinian party accepts because the Palestinians are in a better position—than Egypt or any other—to determine their interests and what they accept or reject. Regarding the Gaza-Jericho proposal, Musa said that if this plan leads to Israeli withdrawal from any Arab territory, we will support it. He noted that any step involving Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land will be a positive factor. If such withdrawal takes place from Gaza, Jericho, south Lebanon, or the Golan, it would be an important step. However, what is important and basic is a comprehensive withdrawal and that it is within the framework of the transitional stage.

Musa praised the outcome of the cordon states foreign ministers meeting. He said that the ministers listened to calm discussions and firmly decided to participate in the 11th round of peace talks, emphasizing the Arab constants and seeking to render the peace process effective because the peace process cannot continue on the basis of negotiating for the sake of negotiations. He said that we must ask what the peace process has produced, but, at the same time, we must be patient and determined to retrieve our rights through this process. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Minister Discusses Meeting

JN2808192993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, in Beirut, by television reporter Hani al-Badri in the studio, on 28 August—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Badri] Good evening, Mr. Talal.

[Al-Hasan] Welcome.

[Al-Badri] Sir, first, we would like you to give us some background on the deliberations at the Beirut meeting, which prompted the Arab delegations to participate in the 11th round of the Washington negotiations.

[Al-Hasan] A great sense of responsibility and concern for the cohesion and unity of the Arab position on the peace process prevailed at this meeting. It stems from the desire to achieve the joint Arab interests. The parties participating in the meeting unanimously adhered to the idea of coordination. I stressed the importance of promoting this coordination on all levels because this will support all the rights and tracks in the peace process.

Moreover, the parties emphasized their adherence to the principle of a comprehensive solution, in accordance with the bases on which the peace process was established. For my part, I emphasized the Jordanian principles that formed the basis of our participation in the peace process. The Arab parties urged the U.S. cosponsor to play the role of a full partner, to effectively promote this role, to maintain the existing momentum, and use this driving force in order to activate and promote the peace process.

[Al-Badri] Would you give us an idea of the general atmosphere at the Beirut meeting in view of the recent reports on U.S., Israeli, and Arab statements about the possibility of a large breakthrough in the 11th round, especially since there are reports about fresh U.S. assurances on playing a full partner role, as you said?

[Al-Hasan] As I explained, at the meeting I reaffirmed the importance of the existing coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. Promoting and activating this coordination will be a definite and basic guarantee for all Arab parties on the various tracks. I also stressed the need for exchanging information before making decisions and taking positions. This will enable the Arab parties to improve their positions and performances, which will consolidate the Arab position in general. A positive atmosphere prevailed at the meeting, and there are high hopes that the next two rounds [of peace talks] will be decisive and will yield important decisions that will effectively and appropriately promote the peace process.

Al-Shar', Buwayz Meet

JN2808154293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] A meeting was held today between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in the presence of Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, and ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese negotiating delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the importance of the existing coordination between the two fraternal countries, which has proved its credibility in serving common interests in political and other issues.

Al-Shar': No Peace Without Full Withdrawal

NC2908054593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Sayyid 'Ali in Beirut "after the Arab cordon states foreign ministers meeting," carried within the "Correspondent's Dispatch" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shar'] We believe that the Israelis now fully realize that without a full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan, there will be no peace with Syria. From this perspective, I can say that the upcoming 11th round of talks will constitute a kind of special [words indistinct] to place the peace process on the right course, or alternatively, remove or dispel any hopes of any progress [words indistinct]

Syria has repeatedly announced that it is ready to observe all peace requirements on these bases if Israel commits itself to a full withdrawal. We sometimes hear statements from the Israeli Government that it still adheres to the peace process. If it is sincere in this, we, and the entire world, must sense that Israel will stop its aggression against Lebanon and carry on with the peace process without making any threats against Lebanon and without setting conditions [words indistinct] to effect withdrawal from the south.

If Israel fails to take this opportunity to achieve peace, we believe that many years will pass without us knowing how to revive this opportunity. [Words indistinct] the unity of the occupied Arab territories and ("tamper with") peace and stability. There is a substantial contradiction between occupation and peace, and there is a false contradiction between the continuation of occupation and Israel's demand for [word indistinct]. The removal of the occupation is the genuine way to achieve peace and entrench security in the region.

[Words indistinct] the Israeli Government must have realized, through its experience, that there is no alternative to the removal of the occupation if a just and comprehensive peace in the region is to be brought about.

Arab Committee on Lockerbie Crisis To Meet 3 Sep

NC2808173293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Beirut, 28 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the Arab seven-member committee formed by the Arab League to discuss the Lockerbie crisis between Libya and the western countries will meet in Cairo in the coming few days. He

added that it has been agreed in principle to hold this meeting next Friday [3 September].

It is recalled that the committee includes the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and the five Maghreb countries.

In exclusive statements he made to Egyptian correspondents in Beirut before leaving for Cairo, Musa that there is no new development at present in the crisis but expressed the hope that there will be a development on the right course.

On another topic, Musa welcomed the visit that Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri will make to Egypt tomorrow, Sunday, and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Said Preparing To Agree To Gaza-Jericho Plan

Sources: Israeli Recognition 'Imminent'

NC2908151493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, 29 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian sources close to President Yasir 'Arafat today said that Israel's recognition of the PLO is imminent and that this recognition is part of a deal to be concluded between Israel and the PLO on granting Palestinians limited autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

The sources added that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in this connection was discussed during a meeting last Friday [27 August] between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The sources also said that Peres will pay a second visit to Washington within two days to agree on the final details of this deal.

The sources pointed out that the PLO, which recognized Israel during the Palestine National Council meetings in 1988, has no problem in this connection and that it expects reciprocal recognition from Israel.

Israeli radio this morning reported that Israel and the PLO are getting ready for mutual recognition as part of a deal concerning the Gaza-Jericho project.

'International Force' To Control Bridge

JN3008104793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] In Amman, an informed Palestinian source has announced that the Palestinians and Israelis have reached an agreement regarding the bridge between Jericho and Jordan, in accordance with which, an international force will control and supervise the bridge. The agreement is considered a compromise between the Palestinian demand to supervise King Husayn Bridge and the occupation forces' insistence on keeping their soldiers in that position.

'Arafat Said Optimistic on Agreement

TA2908082993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has expressed optimism regarding an agreement with Israel over a complete IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullout from Gaza and Jericho in the framework of a general declaration of principles on the future of the territories. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that 'Arafat said this in a telephone conversation with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi last night. 'Arafat also noted that he was the one who raised the idea of Gaza and Jericho First, after Israel had initially proposed to withdraw only from Gaza. 'Arafat expressed satisfaction with the results of the PLO Executive Committee session, but noted that there are some points that require further clarification with Israel.

'Abd-Rabbuh on 'New Leaf' in Relations

TA2908123693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Report on telephone interview with PLO Spokesman Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in Tunis by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck on 29 August]

[Text] We asked PLO spokesman Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh about the reports of an agreement or a possible agreement between the parties under which Israel and the PLO would recognize the other and the PLO would declare a halt to terrorist activities and alter several clauses in the Palestinian Covenant. This was 'Abd-Rabbuh's reaction:

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording, in Arabic with voiceover translation into Hebrew] We wish to turn over a new leaf in relations between the two peoples, and we are ready to take all the necessary steps to bring this about and establish a balanced relationship. [end recording]

I asked 'Abd-Rabbuh whether direct meetings between Israeli and PLO representatives should be expected in the coming days. 'Abd-Rabbuh replied that we are on the verge of a historic change in the Middle East. He did not rule out a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the near future. As for the Gaza-Jericho First proposal, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that this agreement was not limited to these two areas, but was an arrangement that pertained to all of the territories and that entailed several specific steps in the Gaza and Jericho areas.

'Abbas on Mutual Recognition

NC2908185193 London MBC Television in Arabic 1805 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, in Tunis by anchorman Nidal Qabalan "a short time ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Qabalan] Is there a preliminary Palestinian-Israeli agreement about Israeli withdrawal from some occupied territories as a prelude to a full withdrawal?

['Abbas] What we have attained is a number of ideas, which still need finishing touches, on a declaration of principles for the transitional period. This includes discussions about the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, that is, the entire occupied territory, not only Gaza and the Jericho area. However, these ideas deal with the Gaza Strip and Jericho in a more particular sense. This entails an initial Israeli withdrawal from these areas. The Israeli forces will also redeploy in the remaining areas of the West Bank.

[Qabalan] Therefore, you are expecting other Israeli withdrawals from the occupied Palestinian territories.

['Abbas] It is not merely a matter of expectation. This is something that must happen. UN Security Council Resolution 242 must be implemented in the final stage.

[Qabalan] There have been reports that you met with [Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on] Peres in Oslo on 20 August. Did this really happen? What did you talk about?

['Abbas] In fact I never met with Mr. Shim'on Peres, although several reports were broadcast saying that I met him in Cairo, Oslo, and elsewhere. I did not meet him.

[Qabalan] Mr. Abu-Mazin, there is a lot of talk about an imminent mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO leadership. How true is this expectation?

['Abbas] I cannot deny this kind of talk. What I am saying is that it is under discussion.

[Qabalan] One last question. Two PLO Executive Committee members have resigned to protest organizational or economic conditions. How extensive is the crisis now facing the PLO leadership?

['Abbas] Doubtlessly, the PLO is suffering an economic crisis. It is no longer a secret that we are suffering such a crisis. It is a known and public matter. As for Mahmud's [Darwish] resignation, one must remember that he was brought in during the last [Palestine National Council] session as Executive Committee member against his wishes. As for brother Shafiq al-Hut, I frankly say that he suspended his Executive Committee membership as a result of the economic situation and the extreme hardship that the Palestinians are facing in Lebanon. Remember Shafiq al-Hut has to handle this problem on a daily basis.

Officials Comment on Plan

NC2908135293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, 29 Aug (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Taysir Khalid [who represents Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] has stated that negotiations between the PLO leadership and the negotiating delegation revolved primarily around the Gaza-Jericho plan.

He said that the majority of the Executive Committee members affirmed that they had no knowledge of the Palestinian paper the negotiating delegation presented to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem before it was presented. They also said that the paper was not ratified by the Executive Committee before being presented.

Khalid revealed that these members recorded broad objections to the paper and its contents and called for withdrawing it and refraining from relying on it both during negotiations and in the dialogue with United States.

As for the Gaza-Jericho plan, Khalid said that the wide majority recorded objections to the plan, believing that the proposed points were unofficial and unbinding to the Executive Committee.

Taysir Khalid also revealed that Palestinian delegation head Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi demanded a freeze on the delegation's participation in the peace negotiations. 'Abd-al-Shafi believes negotiations are futile because of the continued Israeli settlement process in the occupied territories.

Khalid remarked that the PLO's insistence on presenting the Gaza-Jericho plan during the new round of talks will further aggravate the situation. We have reiterated that the negotiating delegation must bear the consequences and demanded the resignation of its members for their inefficiency in running the negotiations, Khalid said.

For his part, Palestine National Council Secretary Muhammad Subayh stated that the paper the delegation presented to Secretary Christopher, including the Gaza-Jericho plan, was discussed within the context of a comprehensive and integrated declaration of principles that provides for the implementation of international resolutions and for viewing the Gaza-Jericho plan as an initial disengagement agreement linked to the final stages.

Subayh added that the PLO leadership and the negotiating delegation showed understanding toward that suggestion and that only a few of the Executive Committee members objected to the Gaza- Jericho project.

Subayh stated also that the meeting discussed a plan of action to be pursued by the delegation at the talks that will open in Washington on Tuesday [31 August]. The plan emphasizes the land-for-peace principle, halting settlement-building, and the Israeli troop withdrawal from the occupied territories.

'Arafat Associate Comments on Accord

TA2808104193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, "a close associate of Yasir 'Arafat," by 'Adi Talmor; on 28 August—recorded]

[Text] [Talmor] Good morning, sir.

[Al-Tibi] Good morning.

[Talmor] Are you as optimistic as Minister Shahal?

[Al-Tibi] This time I am definitely optimistic. An accord was reached recently in contacts and meetings of senior members of the two governments; namely, representatives of the Israeli Government and representatives of the PLO Executive Committee.

[Talmor] Perhaps you could spell out their names.

[Al-Tibi] No, no names at this stage.

[Talmor] OK, so I will say them. You are referring to Foreign Minister Peres and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], who met in Scandinavia.

[Al-Tibi] You were not altogether accurate. I am talking about meetings between two senior officials....

[Talmor, interrupting] Was I not accurate? What about? About Abu-Mazin?

[Al-Tibi] I do not wish to dwell on the question of the names. The main thing is that the Israeli Government has taken a historic step and a turning point has occurred. The Israeli Government knows that an agreement can be attained with one element only, and that is the PLO. Indeed, that is what happened, what has begun to happen. Although an agreement has not yet been signed, an accord has been reached about a general outline. Gaza and Jericho will be the first step. Incidentally, differences of opinion remain on various points. The Palestinians and Israel have different approaches toward Gaza and Jericho, but both sides agree—and herein lies the breakthrough—that there will be a general and absolute military withdrawal from the two areas, not necessarily from the two cities.

[Talmor] How soon?

[Al-Tibi] An agreement will be concluded very soon, very soon.

[Talmor] I asked you how soon the withdrawal will occur.

[Al-Tibi] After the agreement is signed.

[Talmor] Immediately afterwards?

[Al-Tibi] Almost immediately after the agreement is signed.

[Talmor] Are we talking about weeks or months?

[Al-Tibi] Less than months.

[Talmor] You say less than months.

[Al-Tibi] Yes.

[Talmor] When did you last speak with Tunis?

[Al-Tibi] A few hours ago.

[Talmor] What are people in Tunis saying at this point?

[Al-Tibi] The PLO Executive Committee in Tunis is now holding its third or fourth session together with some members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks who apparently were first briefed about the contacts yesterday.

[Talmor] We have heard that they somewhat objected to this agreement.

[Al-Tibi] I do not know if they objected to it. I do not know about any opposition on their part. Some of the members of the Palestinian delegation drafted working papers on the issue of Gaza and Jericho in the last few days. In other words, they knew that something was in the works, but they did not know the details. Incidentally, both the Israeli and the Palestinian delegations were not let in on the situation. I suppose that at this point the heads of both delegations are aware of the general picture.

[Talmor] So, when will the deliberations in Tunis end and the final official endorsement be given?

[Al-Tibi] I do not foresee a final official endorsement within a day or two because the Israeli Government and the PLO have not yet tied all the loose ends.

[Talmor] Which means that differences persist and attempts are being made to overcome them.

[Al-Tibi] Indeed. Additional meetings must be held between Israeli cabinet ministers and members of the PLO Executive Committee. Perhaps, even the level of the contacts between the senior officials must be raised.

[Talmor] Are you hinting at a meeting between the Israeli prime minister and Yasir 'Arafat himself?

[Al-Tibi] I do not know whether this will happen tomorrow, but such a step could occur in the future because the prime minister has reached the conclusion—and I welcome it—that an agreement must be made with the PLO, and the man currently heading the PLO is Yasir 'Arafat.

[Talmor] Could you tell me what exactly was I inaccurate about earlier on when I asked you about the identity of the officials?

[Al-Tibi] You were accurate for the most part, except for one detail which I would rather not discuss.

[Talmor] Which detail?

[Al-Tibi, laughing] Thank you.

[Talmor] Well, we will remain in suspense. Thank you, sir.

Confirms 'Arafat-Rabin Agreement

TA2908160493 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, "a prominent Israeli Arab who is close to the PLO leadership," by moderator Amnon Levi—live]

[Text] [Levi] Good evening to you Dr. al-Tibi.

[Al-Tibi] Good evening to you, Amnon.

[Levi] The main thing discussed where recognition of the PLO is concerned is the fact that it may possibly curb terrorism, along the lines of the old and well-known Shemtov-Yariv formula [a three-clause formula drawn up by Labor in 1974, specifying the conditions that the PLO has to meet for Israel to be prepared to speak with it, which include recognition of the State of Israel, and renunciation of the path of terror stipulated by the Palestinian Covenant]. The question is whether under the circumstances which have developed—the rise in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] power, for instance—the PLO today can curb terrorism?

[Al-Tibi] Before I address myself to this specific question, I would like to say that the Israeli Government indeed decided to sign an agreement with the PLO. This decision is official and final. The agreement will be signed with the so-called Palestinian delegation indeed, but this delegation will be led by one of the senior PLO members, and this constitutes a historic turnabout in the Israeli Government's position.

[Levi] What are you basing your remarks on? They are very far-reaching.

[Al-Tibi] Let me repeat: The Israeli Government has decided to recognize, and this is part of the agreement. There is no agreement without this. The Israeli Government knows this, and the PLO will lead the Palestinian delegation....

[Levi, interrupting] Who of the PLO will lead the delegation?

[Al-Tibi] At this stage, Yasir 'Arafat has not yet decided who will head the Palestinian delegation. The delegation will be made up of senior PLO members as well as a few Palestinian delegation members, and reference is to a withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. There are still several points which require further discussion and clarification, such as the borders and bridges issues—there are no final agreements on them—but they will not hamper the signing of the significant, historic accord. The Israeli Government has indeed decided this, in an astounding historic step, and I would like to congratulate Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin on this astounding decision and the welcome pragmatism which he has demonstrated, together with two additional ministers who partook in producing this document. I heard Minister Ben-Eli'ezer say today that there was another minister involved besides Mr. Peres, and I confirm this. There were....

[Levi, interrupting] Dr. al-Tibi, your remarks are impressive indeed, but we need to substantiate them to an extent. Did you speak to Yasir 'Arafat recently?

[Al-Tibi] Yes, a few hours ago.

[Levi] Are your remarks said with his approval?

[Al-Tibi] These remarks were not only made in telephone calls. As you know, I visited him several times over the past month.

[Levi] Did you tell him that you were going to make these remarks on Israel Television?

[Al-Tibi] I have never made such a statement without permission or authority.

[Levi] This agreement which you are talking about then—when will it be consolidated?

[Al-Tibi] Very soon.

[Levi] Why did Bassam Abu-Sharif whom we interviewed a few minutes ago decide not to disclose this yet, while you are saying this now in such an unequivocal manner?

[Al-Tibi] My friend Bassam Abu-Sharif is an honorable person who is dear to my heart, personally. Incidentally, an astounding thing happened: Both Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat behaved similarly. Each of them activated two parallel channels in recent weeks. There are only a very few people in Yitzhaq Rabin's and Yasir 'Arafat's circles who knew about the agreement. Therefore, many still do not know the details of the agreement.

[Levi] Let us stick to facts. This matter of 'Arafat demanding to live in Gaza and Jericho—do you know anything about this? Is it a condition indeed?

[Al-Tibi] This is not a condition. It is something that needs to be taken for granted, although it will not happen in the coming weeks. I imagine that the PLO leaders will be physically present in both Jericho and the Gaza Strip toward the end of the year. Before though, I can disclose that Palestinian forces will be stationed both in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

[Levi] Who will exercise sovereignty over these territories?

[Al-Tibi] This is a kind of sovereignty. There is no talk about autonomy regarding the Gaza Strip. The talk there is about something which is much more than autonomy.

[Levi] We heard about local police forces a long time ago. When you say forces, what are you referring to—armed forces?

[Al-Tibi] There are no Palestinian forces in the territories at this stage. They should be brought in from the outside.

[Levi] Last question: Who did Shim'on Peres meet with?

[Al-Tibi] Not with Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

[Levi] Was it with Nabil Sha'th?

[Al-Tibi] No.

[Levi] Say with whom then.

[Al-Tibi] There were several PLO personages who formed contacts with two Israeli Government ministers, with the knowledge and at the initiative of Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin. Incidentally, the two personages conducted themselves in a very cunning political manner, and this is why the negotiations succeeded apparently.

[Levi] Is there any news that has broken over the last few hours that you can update us about, Dr. al-Tibi?

[Al-Tibi] I can tell you that today and tomorrow some of these details will be discussed in meetings of the PLO leadership in Tunis, and I welcome the fact that the Israeli Government too managed to ratify [le'ashrer] this agreement which will be discussed in the cabinet tomorrow.

[Levi] Thank you very much Dr. al-Tibi. We have learned a lot from the conversation with you indeed.

'Ashrawi Denies Agreement Signed

LD2908190793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Sister Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian negotiating delegation spokeswoman, has denied a CNN report yesterday about a Palestinian-Israeli agreement that was actually signed concerning self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. In a statement yesterday in Tunis, Ashrawi said that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators are not near an agreement on a plan for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho as some media is reporting.

Ashrawi added: It is premature to expect anything regarding an Israeli-Palestinian agreement about the Gaza-Jericho plan. She said let us wait and see what happens at the 11th round of the negotiations.

Sister Hanan Ashrawi said we are hoping to reach a comprehensive Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, that include the issue of Gaza and Jericho, and the formula of Gaza-Jericho will come as a title within it.

'Ashrawi Expresses Hope for Direct Talks

TA3008053493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said that the negotiations would focus on many details that were not included in the agreement on principles. These issues might be finalized during the current round of talks, with the actual agreement only being signed in the next round of negotiations.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, has expressed the hope for a breakthrough in the negotiations and the establishment of direct contacts between Israel and the PLO.

Hurani: PLO Has Not Approved Plan

LD2908194093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Brother Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has announced that the committee has not yet agreed on the Gaza-Jericho option and that this subject has not been put seriously, nor in detail, before it. He said: If the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho was within the framework of a total withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories that include genuine national authority, then in that case there would be no objection for the withdrawal to begin from any part of our occupied homeland.

Concerning the question of the self-rule and the Gaza-Jericho option, Mr. Sa'ib 'Uraygat, the deputy leader of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has affirmed the existence of a deep gap between the Palestinian and the Israeli positions. He said the questions of territorial jurisdiction, the settlements, and Jerusalem stand as an obstacle before reaching a final agreement between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Executive Committee Debates Gaza-Jericho, Crisis

NC2808061893 Paris AFP in English 0215 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, Aug 28 (AFP)—The PLO's decision-making executive committee opened a second session of emergency talks here late Friday [27 August] on the group's financial and political crisis, including the fate of its embattled leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) information chief Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said the meeting, which was attended by 'Arafat himself, would discuss the recent resignations of two leading members of the committee.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the first session of the emergency meeting, which took place Thursday night amid a crisis of confidence in 'Arafat's leadership, examined Palestinian negotiating policy with Israel and financial problems, but did not touch on resignations.

A Palestinian source who declined to be identified told AFP that Thursday's four-hour debate was "very frank." Other Palestinian sources have said that further resignations could take place at Friday's meeting.

Prominent poet Mahmud Darwish, who brought the crisis to the forefront by his resignation last week, was present at Friday's encounter, which brought together 18 committee members.

During a photo session before the talks began, it was clear that members of the Palestinian delegation to the Mideast peace talks, who had been scheduled to attend, were not present.

Five members of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, which was cut in half this week due to financial constraints, had been due to attend. Among them were delegation leader Faysal al-Husayni and spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi, who arrived in Tunis earlier Friday.

Taysir Khalid, of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the committee, on Friday called for the resignation of committee members who had been conducting negotiations with Israel.

He accused the negotiating team, composed of officials close to 'Arafat and led by committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, of "abuse of power" and "incompetence," blaming them for "all the concessions made" to Israel.

Palestinian sources have warned that another committee member, 'Abdallah Hurani, could pull out during the meeting. Hurani had described the Tunis gathering as "the last chance" to prevent the collapse of the PLO.

Support for 'Arafat's leadership was expressed elsewhere. In East Jerusalem, around 150 Palestinians held a support meeting for 'Arafat in a theatre.

The PLO, with 'Arafat at its head, is the only organisation "capable of bringing about the creation of a Palestinian state," declared Sari Nusaybah, a member of the technical committees assigned to the peace delegation.

In separate comments, 'Abd-Rabbuh also welcomed as "a step forward" a declaration by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that his country was willing to allow Palestinian self-government in the Gaza Strip.

He told AFP that "if Mr Peres is in agreement, we are in agreement" with the proposed Israeli pullout, adding that "we can only welcome this step forward."

Peres said in a television interview aired Thursday that Israel was prepared to withdraw troops and allow Palestinian self-government in the occupied Gaza Strip and possibly Jericho, in the occupied West Bank.

The PLO's representative in Lebanon, Shafiq al-Hut, who announced his withdrawal from the committee on Sunday, was also likely to travel to Tunis, according to informed Palestinian sources.

Newspaper Details Discussions

JN2908120893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Aug 93 p 29

[By the Palestinian affairs correspondent]

[Text] Debate over the leopard's skin, i.e., the "Gaza-Jericho First" option, continued during the second night of the PLO Executive Committee meetings in Tunis. The Palestinian negotiating team was absent.

Fourteen members of the PLO Executive Committee attended the meeting. AL-RA'Y was told in telephone conversations with some PLO Executive Committee members that resigning PLO Executive Committee member poet Mahmud Darwish delivered an outstanding and mostly poetic speech. He said he is not a politician, but someone who deals with politics from the perspective of a writer. As a writer and patriot, he added, he is not convinced that the Palestinians are engaged in a viable negotiating process. Consequently, he does not want to bear the burdens and responsibilities of this process, in which he is not involved. He noted that the Gaza-Jericho First option worries him. He said accepting this option is a risk no one should take. He said he does not advise anyone to consider this option.

Darwish's speech was welcomed with applause. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] reacted to the speech with the phrase: "Thanks, Mahmud. Thank you."

Then, Jawid al-Ghusayn, chairman of the Palestine National Fund [PNF], delivered a speech. He announced that the PNF's assets amount to nothing. Many attendees, who found this remark peculiar, asked for a meeting of the PNF Board of Directors. Al-Ghusayn told them that this is impossible because ['Abd-al-Majid] Shuman [Arab Bank director] and [Tahsin] al-Sabbagh refused to attend such a meeting. Later, [PLO Executive Committee member] Sulayman al-Najjab proposed the formation of a committee to take note of the PNF's assets. This proposal won the support of both Abu-'Ammar and al-Ghusayn. The committee was actually formed. Abu-'Ammar will be the chairman of this committee; [PLO Executive Committee members] Jamal al-Surani, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, and Sulayman al-Najjab will be committee members.

When the storm over the financial crisis died down, opposition figures stood and addressed al-Ghusayn, saying: Some $850 million has been withdrawn from the Arab Bank, and 650 million Bahraini riyals were recently withdrawn. We do not know where these funds have been deposited. Al-Ghusayn reacted to this remark, saying: There is nothing in the PNF's coffers. There is no need for you to dwell on this issue. He noted that the financial siege of the PLO in the aftermath of the Gulf war is continuing.

At 2000 yesterday, the PLO Executive Committee held its third meeting. As previously decided, the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks did not attend the meeting. PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi may have joined the meeting later.

In a separate development, a responsible Palestinian source has revealed to AL-RA'Y that a Palestinian-Israeli meeting has been held in Stockholm, Sweden between Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', a

member of the Fatah Central Committee and the official in charge of the Palestinian multilateral negotiating delegations, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, PLO Central Council member Saji Salamah [Political Bureau member of the Hawatimah wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] indicated that during this meeting an agreement was reached on a draft declaration of principles, in which the issue of territorial jurisdiction was reviewed. However, this draft established no borders. Similarly, powers to manage the territories that will be subject to interim self-government were not established in this draft declaration of principles.

The Palestinian official said it was agreed that this draft declaration of principles will be submitted during the 11th round of the peace talks. Once endorsed, there will be a discussion of the issue of transferring administrative functions in the areas of health, education, administration, and police work to the Palestinians, in Gaza and Jericho at first. This will continue for a test period, after which other territories may be added to these two areas.

Salamah indicated that the draft declaration of principles does not provide for any Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza or Jericho. It only provides, he noted, for the redeployment of Israeli troops in strategic areas. Gaza and Jericho, just like other areas, will remain under the Israeli military and security control, he maintained.

Salamah said this agreement is in line with the statements a few days ago by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He pointed out that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement completely ignores the issues of Jerusalem and the settlements, affirming that reports on Palestinian sovereignty over Gaza and Jericho or on the possible return of President 'Arafat to these two areas, only reflect delusions that will not deceive the Palestinian people.

Salamah said the former Swedish foreign minister, who is currently the secretary of the Swedish Social Democratic Labor Party [as received], recently relayed a message from President 'Arafat to the Israeli Government. In the message, 'Arafat proposed a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and another meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and a senior PLO official.

Salamah added: The proposal has partly materialized. Rabin authorized the meeting between Shim'on Peres and Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', a member of the Fatah Central Committee. The Swedish official is the same intermediary who played a role in opening a dialogue between the PLO and the United States after President 'Arafat met three conditions, i.e., recognizing Israel's right to exist, renouncing armed struggle, and recognizing and accepting Resolution 242.

Opposition to Abu-'Ammar is mounting. His former deputy, lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, is holding a parallel meeting in Amman. This meeting, attended by PLO Executive Committee members who did not leave for the Tunis meetings and Palestine National Council members, is certain to address a statement to the Palestinian people.

'Heated' Meetings on Gaza-Jericho End

NC2908101593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, 29 Aug (MENA)—The Palestinian leadership under President Yasir 'Arafat ended three days of meetings early this morning.

In last night's session, in which the negotiating Palestinian delegation headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi participated, the leadership discussed the Gaza-Jericho First plan, which 'Arafat said was his proposal.

Informed Palestinian sources said a heated and intense debate between the proponents of the plan, led by 'Arafat, and its opponents in the leadership, the Executive Committee, and the negotiating delegation took place.

The sources stressed that the Palestinian delegation will present the plan to the Israelis during the 11th round of peace negotiations, which will open in Washington Tuesday [31 August].

Delegation Leaves for U.S.

LD2908133993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpt] At dawn today, the PLO Executive Committee concluded its meetings presided over by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and held over the last three days.

In another development, an informed Palestinian source said that the Palestinian negotiating delegation, led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, left Tunis for Washington this morning to take part in the 11th round of Middle East peace negotiations expected to start in two days time, Tuesday [31 August], in Washington. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Assesses Context of Plan

LD3008002893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has stated that complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho constitutes an integral part of the comprehensive arrangements concerning all the occupied Palestinian areas.

This statement was reported by the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, at the end of the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee on 26 and 27 August, followed by a meeting of the Palestinian leadership under the chairmanship of Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee in the presence of the Palestinian negotiating delegation. At that meeting the latest developments in the political situation, as well as organizational and

financial matters and conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories, were debated.

The spokesman added that the conferees perused the draft project of principles, which includes the establishment of a national Palestinian authority during the interim stage in the occupied Palestinian territories on the basis of the Palestinian people exercising their right to control their soil and their resources and their national destiny. In addition, the conferees perused the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho areas, which they said constitutes an integral part of the comprehensive arrangements concerning all the occupied Palestinian areas.

The Executive Committee has issued the necessary directives to the negotiating delegation who effectively took part in the meetings. In conclusion, the spokesman pointed out that it was decided to form a special committee to study financial conditions and the need to earmark the financial revenues of the PLO for the purpose of providing aid to the population of the occupied soil and the PLO institutions.

On the other hand, Yasir 'Arafat last night [29 August] had talks with Michael Tait, British ambassador in Tunis, and conveyed to him an urgent message for the British government.

The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, which carried the report yesterday, said that the message concerned developments in the Middle East peace process and the 11th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations. The agency said that the two sides reviewed the latest developments in occupied Palestine.

'Arafat Adviser on Tunis Meetings

JN2908170593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis by Bassam Mu'addi in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Good evening, Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif.

[Abu-Sharif] Good evening to you.

[Mu'addi] What decisions were made at the conclusion of meetings by the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis?

[Abu-Sharif] The meetings concluded after PLO Executive Committee members and Palestinian delegates to the peace talks debated the latest contacts with the United States and the Gaza-Jericho First option as the point of departure for a transfer of power to a Palestinian self-government. Agreement was reached on a plan of action. The delegation has left for Washington armed with the authority to resume the negotiations.

[Mu'addi] How do you rate the chances of the upcoming negotiating round of talks yielding a joint declaration of principles?

[Abu-Sharif] That will depend solely on the Israeli Government's position. For our part, we have advanced a clear position to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. I believe it figured in the talks Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had with Christopher during his lightning visit to California. We guess Peres will make another trip to the United States in the next 48 hours for further discussions. Our stand is quite clear. The Palestinian side, I think, has shown every flexibility to promote a declaration of principles along the lines of the invitations for the Madrid Conference, and that means the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories.

[Mu'addi] There are reports of an initial agreement having been reached at a secret meeting. What is your reaction?

[Abu-Sharif] I can only speak in general terms. The Palestinians welcome contacts between PLO and Israeli Government officials. Naturally, we hope that things will culminate in Mr. Rabin heeding repeated calls by President Yasir 'Arafat, who has said he is extending his hand to him in the interest of peace.

[Mu'addi] How accurate is the report published in Israel today that Israel and the PLO may exchange recognition?

[Abu-Sharif] President Yasir 'Arafat took the initiative and extended public recognition to Israel in an address to the UN General Assembly on 13 December 1988. Two months before, the Palestine National Council approved 'Arafat's measure. It is now Israel's turn to recognize the PLO; we are more than happy if such a decision is being contemplated.

[Mu'addi] Assuming this happened, would the PLO introduce amendments to its National Charter?

[Abu-Sharif] President Yasir 'Arafat is on record as stating that the Palestinian National Charter is null and void, meaning that all the policies endorsed by the National Council supersede preceding ones. As far as we are concerned, this is not an obstacle. Those who have made an obstacle out of this issue are the ones who are opposed to peace. We are now striving for peace with Israel, and we hope the Israeli Government and public will show receptiveness to our peace advances. If they did, they would thus open a new chapter for Israel's history in the Middle East and for Arab-Israeli relations.

[Mu'addi] Is Israel's reported willingness to let you and other PLO officials come to the country true?

[Abu-Sharif] I have already proposed that. I said that I was prepared to make the trip. I still am. The Israeli Government's approval would have far-reaching political implications. We hope it will not be too long before Israel gives the go-ahead for the visit.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, thank you.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

Abu-Sharif on 'First Concrete Step' in Talks

TA2908175193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has said that the Palestinian delegation has been authorized to sign a document of principles with Israel in the next round of talks, which resume in Washington in two days. Abu-Sharif hopes that a decisive turning point will be reached in the history of the region by the end of the year. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports:

[Begin recording] [Gus] Yes, optimistic statements are coming out of Tunis. There is a sense of being on the verge of a historic turning point, as expressed by 'Arafat's political adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif.

[Abu-Sharif, in English] We feel that we are five minutes away from the first concrete step to be taken on the road to establish peace in the Middle East. We have no illusions about that. The road will be a difficult one. We hope that the Israeli Government would come up to its promises and the 11th round of talks in Washington would be fruitful and concrete in as far as starting a transitional stage in the contacts of the implementation of United Nations resolutions to end the Israeli occupation to the Arab and Palestinian land.

[Gus translates above remarks and continues] Abu-Sharif confirms that in its discussions last night and over the recent days, the PLO Executive Committee has given 'Arafat and the Palestinian delegation the green light to accept the Gaza-Jericho First proposal, and the delegation has already left for Washington with full authorization to negotiate with Israel.

[Abu-Sharif, in English] Yes, the delegation left already this morning. They left Tunis with full authorization to negotiate with the Israelis the first concrete step, and when I talk about the first concrete step it is the transfer of authority to Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho, but in the context, as I said, of an overall settlement that will lead to the Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territory.

[Gus translates above remarks and continues] Abu-Sharif asserts that it will be possible to implement this before the end of the year, and he then proposes the establishment of a joint Palestinian government for the residents of the territories and the Palestinian diaspora that will be led by Yasir 'Arafat. Its task will be to lay the infrastructure and establish a confederation with Jordan. As for the matter of joint recognition and the disavowal of terrorism, Abu-Sharif says that the PLO already disavowed terrorism and even condemned it. It has even recognized Israel for all intents and purposes, recalling 'Arafat's speeches, including the famous term caduq [null and void]. It is time for Israel to recognize the PLO, he said, and stop trying to hide the sun with a finger.

[Abu-Sharif, in English] And I think it is a logical step that the Israeli Government would recognize the PLO right now. I think the time is right, and it is high time not to hide the sun with a finger. It is high time that the Israeli Government would recognize the PLO as a mutual response to the recognition of the PLO to Israel.

[Gus] As for the negative reactions which have already been aired, Abu-Sharif admits that there is opposition to the agreement, both from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the rejectionist front, but also from within the PLO's mainstream. Nevertheless, he says, it is clear that the majority supports the Gaza-Jericho First idea, and the proof of that he states is the fact that the Palestinian delegation left for Washington with full authorization. [end recording]

Officials on Current Developments

NC2908072093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, in Tunis by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

[Subayh] Good morning.

[Husayn] Mr. Subayh, what is happening in the PLO, especially since the resignation of Shafiq al-Hut and Mahmud Darwish from the PLO Executive Committee?

[Subayh] My dear brother, there is much noise and media exaggeration about the PLO. It is regrettable that this foreign clamor comes while the PLO is waging the most vicious battles for peace and firmly confronting all attempts to ignore national Palestinian rights. As always, the PLO's democracy is open for all. Brother Mahmud Darwish is a prominent and talented Palestinian and Arab poet. Poets on this level are rare in Palestinian history. Brother Mahmud Darwish was pressured to join the Executive Committee. As I recall—and I am the secretary of the Palestine National Council—he avoided the election session so that he would not be elected. He wanted to devote his time to poetry and literature. But when the brothers pressed Mahmud Darwish, he agreed to join the Executive Committee for a year. A sensitive poet, Mahmud Darwish cannot enter the labyrinth of this unjust economic blockade against the Palestinian people. He now wants to devote his time to poetry.

As for brother Shafiq al-Hut in Lebanon, he is suffering a great deal because of the economic situation. The Palestinian people everywhere are suffering from the economic hardship and the financial siege. Our people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza are suffering from this

protracted siege against the Palestinian people. Resources have been depleted, and the PLO, which kept pumping money to the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, has received nothing for 40 months. This difficult economic situation is now pressuring us all as we wage the battle of negotiations.

[Husayn] Mr. Abu-Sharif, could you explain the differences within the PLO, especially concerning two points: The PLO's policy toward the Middle East peace process and the financial and organizational accusations of PLO leaders by some Palestinian factions?

[Abu-Sharif] I would like to begin with the second point—the accusation that the PLO leadership abused financial management and caused this major financial crisis. The fact is that the cutoff of Arab assistance to the PLO has been depleting the organization's resources since 1989; that is—and this is a very important point—since before Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. We are not talking about the Gulf war, but about Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. The Arab countries stopped paying PLO dues before that. The PLO, however, continued to shoulder its responsibilities toward the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories throughout this period without any complaints. Recently, however—specifically since last year—Israel has intensified its oppressive measures. It besieged Gaza and the West Bank and prevented workers from going to their jobs. This increased the PLO's burden toward the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Moreover, Rabin's government escalated its oppression against the Palestinian people, resulting in more prisoners, wounded, and martyrs; this added to the PLO burden. In one year, for example, 38,000 families were added to the list of those eligible for PLO assistance—families of martyrs, detainees, or disabled. There is also the financial assistance to educational facilities, hospitals, and agricultural and industrial institutions. Because we give priority to the occupied territories, Palestinians outside the occupied territories are suffering from this difficult situation.

As regards the [word indistinct] in general, briefly, we take pride in our democracy. If we did not have opposition, this would be a defect. But there are two kinds of opposition in the Palestinian arena: opposition to the entire policy, that is, opposition to the peace process in principle. This is the view of the radical forces. The other opposition objects to the tactical management of the peace process. The two kinds of opposition are legitimate. We respect views. For instance, we respect the opinion of Dr. George Habash. He is a prominent Palestinian militant whom we respect and hold in esteem. But he opposes the entire policy. We can understand this, but we do not accept it because the majority has decided that the peaceful solution is the road the PLO will take.

[Husayn] Bassam Abu-Sharif, how did you deal with these issues and differences?

[Abu-Sharif] The discussion was very responsible, calm, and deep. Issues were raised from a historic perspective and on the basis of our historic responsibility. I would like to add here that the situation is not easy. The situation is difficult under this broad Palestinian democracy, which in some cases is even excessive. It is difficult, but there is a view and sense of responsibility to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories and establish peace. Like the majority, we are fully convinced that peace based on international legitimacy will lead to the development of the area, and this is the basic problem.

[Husayn] Muhammad Subayh, my question is about Israel's plan to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho. How do the Palestinians view this move, especially since the U.S. State Department and Israeli officials have said that they are optimistic that a solution will be achieved soon on the Palestinian level or on the Palestinian-Israeli track?

[Subayh] Israel has made a proposal regarding Gaza. We welcome this struggling and patient Strip and are ready to take it over and administer it in the best manner. We will do that if Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip without agreement. But if there is agreement to hand over the Strip, we want the Strip to be handed over together with another part of the West Bank so there will be disengagement, as happened after the 1973 war. The intifadah is a great means of struggle and such a disengagement can happen in its wake. But this is fully contingent on a declaration of principles and the final settlement. This is the Palestinian view on the Gaza-Jericho plan.

[Husayn] Muhammad Subayh, there were frequent reports about meetings between high-level PLO and Israeli officials. Which Israeli official did Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, meet with and what was discussed during this meeting?

[Subayh] First, [Israeli Foreign Minister] Peres denied that meetings took place. This issue has been resolved as far as the PLO and the Palestinian leadership are concerned, in the sense that when we agreed to attend the Madrid conference, we knew that we were going to meet with the other side. They have not yet openly come to grips with the facts. They fully realize that the Palestinian delegation is the PLO's delegation and is part of the organized Palestinian action. They fully realize that meetings and mutual recognition are basic principles in the peace talks. We welcome any open meeting on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy. We are not afraid of such meetings. The other side must prepare its people to receive the facts as they are: permanent, just, and comprehensive peace for all; security for all; withdrawal from the occupied territories; and the establishment of an independent Palestinian entity confederally linked with Jordan.

[Husayn] What took place during brother Mahmud 'Abbas' meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres?

[Subayh] I did not say that brother Mahmud 'Abbas met with Shim'on Peres. Peres has denied this. If a meeting takes place, the PLO wants it to be open, according to principles, and against the background of the peace talks and the resolutions of international legitimacy. So far the Israeli side has denied that a meeting took place, and we have no comment.

[Husayn] Bassam Abu-Sharif, as you have heard, Muhammad Subayh did not comment on reports regarding meetings between PLO and Israeli officials. Do you deny that such meetings took place?

[Abu-Sharif] I can confirm that such meetings took place. But so far the Israeli Government has been trying to keep such contacts secret to avoid political repercussions. I think that the time has come for Mr. Rabin to have the necessary courage to face Israeli public opinion. We are aware that the Israeli public is mixed and includes extremists and opposition elements, just as the Palestinian public does.

[Husayn] Brothers, at the end of this dialogue, we extend sincere thanks to Bassam Abu-Sharif and Muhammad Subayh.

Provisions of Gaza-Jericho Plan Published

JN2908082393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Aug 93 p 27

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR exclusively publishes the package deal reached by the Palestinians and the Israelis on Gaza-Jericho first, following unofficial and official secret talks that have been disclosed by a Palestinian official but denied by the Israelis.

This package is based on full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho within three months after the agreement is signed, direct negotiations with the PLO, and the conclusion of agreements directly with the PLO.

Reliable Palestinian sources in Amman said the agreement may be initialed during the 11th round of negotiations in Washington. A great change is expected to be introduced into the makeup of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, but this change will not impact seven of its primary members. PLO members will be directly involved in the negotiations.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that the Israeli Government has asked for lists of PLO members in order to approve their membership on the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

It is said within PLO quarters that Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, will sign the agreement on "the declaration of principles" for the Palestinian side in Washington.

Following are the provisions of the package deal:

- Setting up a transitional Palestinian authority during the transitional stage; negotiations on the final status will begin at the beginning of the third year, and will be based on Resolution 242; their object will be implementing this resolution;
- Working to immediately transfer authority in various fields to the Palestinian side;
- A strong Palestinian police force will be responsible for internal security; the formation of this force will start immediately;
- Dissolution of civil administration and military rule establishments and preparing to elect a Palestinian council within a year; Jerusalem's inhabitants will participate as candidates and voters in these elections;
- Full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho within three months after the agreement is signed;
- Direct negotiations by Israel with the PLO and the conclusion of agreements with it;
- The subjects of Jerusalem, the settlements, and final withdrawal will be included on the negotiating agenda two years later;
- During the transitional stage, internal security will be a Palestinian responsibility, and external security will be an Israeli responsibility;
- Accepting the return of 1967 evacuees in stages after the transitional stage begins and after withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho;
- The Gaza-Jericho first agreement and the agreement on the transitional stage are part of a comprehensive agreement that provides Palestinians with territorial jurisdiction over all Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

Sources: PLO Leadership To Move to Gaza

TA2908061193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, coordinator of the Palestinian delegation, supports the proposal that East Jerusalem Arabs who are Israeli citizens participate in the municipal elections in Jerusalem. Al-Husayni, interviewed by AL-QUDS, said that candidates for the Jerusalem council will have to declare they were not representing the Arabs of East Jerusalem. He also said that if the Gaza-Jericho First idea is adopted, it will be necessary to evacuate the settlements in those areas.

Sources in Jerusalem told our correspondent Moti Amir that Fatah activists in Gaza and Jericho are already searching for a house for Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat's aides said that the PLO chief is determined to pray in the al-Aqsa Mosque within several weeks.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 29 August, in a page 5 report by Sulayman al-Shafa'i, adds: "Palestinian sources in Gaza this weekend said that the PLO headquarters will move from Tunis to Gaza in the near future. The sources noted that the headquarters will be located in a palace in the al-Rumayl neighborhood near Gaza's beach.

["According to the sources, immediately after a peace agreement is signed on the basis of the Gaza First plan,

'Arafat and his entourage will move to the palace, located in the southwestern part of the high-class al-Rumayl neighborhood."]

'Arafat To Reside in Jericho

JN2908061093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Report by Huda al-Husayni from London]

[Text] Radio Monte Carlo has telephoned a ranking Palestinian source who stressed that the Gaza-Jericho option is now in its final stages and that what has been published about this topic is not that far from the truth. The source said an appropriate residence is being prepared for PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. He said: The residence is in the 'Ayn al-Sultan quarter in Jericho. 'Arafat is expected to leave for Jericho at the beginning of winter, that is, before the end of this year.

In reply to a question on the proposed [Gaza-Jericho] option, the source said the PLO wants this option, which takes the form of autonomy for the Gaza Strip and the city of Jericho, to be for an experimental transitional period not exceeding two years. However, the Israelis insist that this period should be five years, after which autonomy will be developed and expanded.

The source said 'Arafat will personally announce the autonomy government from Jericho. The source avoided any reference to the members of this government. He emphasized that the Palestinian people are not against this option, but view it as the first step toward the awaited state.

In reply to a question on the PLO's financial state of affairs and reports of a deficit, the source said 'Arafat has allocated the sums necessary to secure the requirements of autonomy, whether for a period of two or five years.

Funds Reportedly To Be Tranferred

JN2908180393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1712 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] With regard to the PLO's financial crisis, a responsible source in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Nayif Hawatimah, has said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat wants to transfer $800 million from the Arab Bank's branches in London, Cyprus, Amman, and Beirut to Egyptian banks in order to transfer these funds to the occupied territories to finance the expenses resulting from the Gaza-Jericho plan.

This source added that 'Arafat withdrew 650 million Bahraini dirhams [as heard] from bank accounts in Bahrain. He did not specify the place to which these funds were transferred, and gave no further clarifications. The source, however, pointed out that the reports of a financial crisis in the PLO aim to create an atmosphere of despair among Palestinians in the occupied territories. This would prompt them to accept the solutions proposed to them and would also prompt Palestinians in the diaspora to find solutions such as final settlement in the countries in which they are currently residing.

91 PNC Members Said Opposed to Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC2908064393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] A Palestinian official has announced that the Palestinians and Zionists reached an initial agreement on Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. The official noted, however, that there are still differences between the two sides concerning the boundaries of Israel's withdrawal from these two areas.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian opposition has rejected all forms of negotiations, as well as the Gaza-Jericho plan. Ninety-one members of the 480-seat Palestine National Council [PNC] called on the PLO leadership to withdraw from the peace talks and drop the Gaza-Jericho plan for an interim settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Saji Salamah, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Political Bureau, spoke of growing public opposition to the rudderless policies of the PLO's leadership and to the destructive Gaza-Jericho plan the leadership is trying to implement.

Officials Call for Suspending Talks

JN2908080493 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 29 Aug 93 p 25

[Excerpt] Amman—Ninety-one members of the Palestine National Council [PNC], other Palestinian organizations, and independents have called for the rejection of the U.S. paper, which excludes Jerusalem from discussion, rejects the Palestinian people's sovereignty over their land, and breaks up territorial jurisdiction.

In an appeal to the Palestinian people, they called for remaining committed to the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

In their appeal, the Palestinian officials called for suspending bilateral and multilateral negotiations and urged a comprehensive national dialogue to restore the unity of the Palestinian people and that of the PLO. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Memo Rejecting Talks

JN2908143993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Aug 93 pp 1, 17

[Palestinian affairs correspondent's dispatch]

[Text] Prominent figures in the PLO, representing some of the main factions of the organization, along with a number of independent members of the PLO, have called for the suspension of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations and the start of a comprehensive national

dialogue to regain the unity of the people and the PLO and abide by Palestinian constants.

In an urgent call to the Palestinian people, 91 members called for the rejection of the U.S. paper, which excludes Jerusalem from any discussion, rejects Palestinian people's sovereignty over their land, and breaks up territorial jurisdiction.

The following is the text of the call and the names of the signatories:

A review has been made of the outcome of the political negotiations process under way and its results on the Israeli side—intransigence, bloody repression, siege, and the starvation of our people in the occupied territories. It is becoming clearer each day that the U.S. Administration has a biased policy toward Israel. It has proven that it is a full partner of Israel in the negotiations and seeks to impose its viewpoint, which is inspired by the Israeli interests, as expressed in the U.S. paper that was submitted to the Palestinian delegation on 30 June 1993. The paper excludes Jerusalem from any discussion, rejects the Palestinian people's sovereignty over their land, breaks up the so-called territorial jurisdiction, and refuses to have the united Palestinian people be represented by the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

From our concern over our people's supreme national interests, we proclaim our commitment to our people's national rights, and our insistence on our independent Palestinian national decisionmaking, and call for the rejection of the U.S. paper and the process of amending it.

We call for the suspension of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and the start of a comprehensive national dialogue to regain the people's unity and the unity of the PLO. We also call for abidance by the Palestinian national consensus program to secure the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy on the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, represented in the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]; Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee; 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee; Subhi Abu-Karsh, alias Abu-al-Mundhir, member of the Fatah Central Committee; Taysir Qubba'ah, Deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council; Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee; 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PFLP deputy secretary general; Saji Salamah, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]; Ahmad al-Jamal, member of the Central Committee of the DFLP; Jamil Shihadah, secretary general of the Palestinian Teachers Union; Haydar Ibrahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Workers Union; 'Uthman Abu-Gharbiyah, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; Dr. Subhi Ghawshah; 'Isam 'Abd-al-Hadi, chairman of the Palestinian Women General Union; Dr. Mustafa Milhim; Reverend Ibrahim 'Ayyad; Reverend Qustantin Qarmash; 'Arafat Hijazi; Dawud Talhami; 'Ali Abu-Rabi'; Muhammad 'Ali al-A'raj, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; Dr. Jamal Muhaysin; Samih Kuwayk; Amin al- Ja'bari; Hamdi Ghunaym; 'Abd-al-'Aziz Saqr; Mustafa Khumayyis; Muhammad Milhim; Mahmud Tayyim; Yusuf Sammur; Widad 'Abd-al-Rahim; Siham Sukkar; Ahmad Yamani; Ahmad Salih Muslih Abu-Hasan; Ahmad Muhammad Musa Dahbur; Ishaq 'Abd-al-Qadir Yunus; Bashir Ahmad al- Khayri; Jabr Muhammad Yusuf al-Wannah; Jamil Muhammad Isma'il al- Majdalawi; Hamad Muhammad Matar; Hanna Zakariya Hanna Qahhat; Dhiyab Khadr Mar'i Hasan; Dawud Marawighah, known as Abu-Hamad Fu'ad; Rasmiyah Yusuf Mustafa 'Awdah; Shihadah 'Isa Ghannam; Salah-al-Din Wahid al-Hawwari; Sabir Mustafa Isma'il Muhyi-al-Din; Salah Muhammad Salah; 'Abid 'Ubayd 'Abdallah al-Zuray'i; 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Ali al-Haj Ahmad; 'Abd Raja Sarhan; 'Ablah Nasif Harb Shamiyah; 'Ata Isma'il 'Abdallah al-Khatib; 'Umar Qutaysh; Fu'ad 'Abdallah Muhammad Yusuf; Firyal Sa'id al-Shaykh Salim, alias Samirah Salah; Kayid Shihadah Kayid al-Ghul; Layla 'Ali Muhammad Khalid; Muhammad al-Musallami, known as Abu-Nidal; Muhammad Miflih Muhammad Nawfal; Mahmud Ibrahim Hamdan Fannun; Yunus 'Abd Taha; Kamal Diya'-al-Din Sa'id al-Nimri; Intisar Mar'i; Bilal al-Shakhshir; Khalid 'Abd-al- Rahim; Rima Nazzal; Salih Zaydan; 'Ali Abu-Hilal; 'Ali al-Shabi; 'Inan al-'Amiri; 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Ghawsh; Lutfiyah al-Hawwari; Muhammad Qaddurah; Muhammad Sa'id Murad; Mahmud Barakah; Nazim Fa'ur; Nihayah Muhammad; 'Ablah Abu-'Ulbah; Ahmad Jabr; Fa'izah Abu- al-Hayja'; Taha al-'Abdallah; Zafir al-Khadra'; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid; Salim Abu-Khalil; Mahmud Hamdan; Ibrahim al-Fityani; Yusuf al-Maqdah; 'Ali 'Aziz; and Rashad Abu-Shawar.

Saji Salamah, member of the DFLP Political Bureau, stressed that the PNC members' call, which rejects the American paper and the exclusion of Jerusalem and demands a comprehensive national dialogue on the basis of adherence to national constants, echoes a mounting national and popular opposition to the policy of the prevailing leadership and to the destructive plan represented in the Gaza- Jericho option under occupation, which the leadership is trying to peddle against our people.

Saji Salamah noted that the national Palestinian forces, including prominent Fatah leaders, have signed the call.

PFLP-GC Threatens To Assassinate 'Arafat

NC3008131393 Paris AFP in English 1246 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, Aug 30 (AFP)—A radical Palestinian leader threatened Monday [30 August] to assassinate

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat if he accepted the "Gaza-Jericho first" plan for autonomy in the Israeli- occupied territories.

"We remind 'Arafat of the fate of (former Egyptian president) Anwar al-Sadat and that of 'Isam Sartawi," said Ahmad Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP- GC).

"If he accepts the plot for Gaza and Jericho autonomy, he will pay the price, along with his associates," Jibril said in a statement sent to AFP in the Lebanese capital.

Al-Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and was assassinated two years later, while Sartawi, a close aide to 'Arafat charged with contacting Israeli groups, was killed in Lisbon in 1983.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman has given the go-ahead for Palestinian delegates to negotiate the Gaza-Jericho option with Israel at peace talks in Washington opening Tuesday.

Jibril, whose non-PLO group opposes the U.S.-sponsored peace talks, warned that the accord on autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho would "trigger a civil war in Palestine."

It would also serve the "Zionist plan to liquidate the intifadah," the uprising which has swept the occupied territories since December 1987, said the leader of the PFLP-GC, which is close to Syria and Iran.

He urged Palestinians in the territories and abroad "to rise up and foil this plot."

Asks 'Arafat To Suspend Negotiations

JN2908090893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Aug 93 p 15

[Text] Amman—Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has called on Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to suspend the negotiations, affirming that its patience and that of the Palestinian people is running short.

Mustafa Khumayyis, Palestine National Council and PFLP-GC Central Committee member, said his front will strike with an iron fist at all those who harm the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, affirming that the Palestinian command can no longer be trusted with the Palestinian people's interests and national rights.

PFLP's Habash Comments on Gaza-Jericho First

JN3008041493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Interview with Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Damascus radio correspondent Sana' al-Imam, carried within the "Today's Guest" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Imam] Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. What is the PFLP's view of the Gaza-Jericho first option, and what stands will the PFLP adopt if this option is translated into practical steps on the ground?

[Habash] In principle, the PFLP cannot object to any Israeli withdrawal from any Palestinian land. This issue, however, should not be viewed in principle only, but also in terms of the agreement that was reached, or the bargain that was reached, between the PLO leadership and Israel. I believe that Israel can only withdraw if it guarantees two basic things: The first thing is the intifadah. I want our masses to understand that—through the agreement between the PLO and Israel regarding the Gaza Strip—Israel wants to quell the intifadah. I want our masses to examine the agreement closely. The agreement will have a provision for Israel's security. What does Israel's security mean? It means quelling the intifadah. This is the first thing.

The other thing is the issue of Jerusalem. We all know the clamor that was caused by the presentation of the American paper, and all of the PLO Executive Committee members clearly said that they are against this paper. The agreement reached with regard to the Gaza Strip and Jericho calls for canceling the issue of Jerusalem for now—at least at this interim stage. As for how we will react, our stand will be to keep up the fight against Israel. We will be extremely inclined to keep the intifadah and the battle against Israel going. We cannot misunderstand the fundamental and key contradiction, namely that the contradiction is with Israel. We want to bring all the forces opposed to this agreement together. I think Radio Monte Carlo yesterday reported that there are some 100 members of the Palestine National Council opposed to this agreement. To my knowledge, in its last session, the Palestine National Council [PNC] did not endorse self-government on a chunk of Palestinian territory. Confronted with this option, therefore, it is natural that we call for convening a PNC session.

This is not all. This, in fact, requires a popular referendum, because it is a serious issue. Therefore, there should be a referendum under UN supervision to know the opinion of all the Palestinian masses in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank, and in Jerusalem. All these masses should express their opinion on this serious issue.

I cannot imagine that the kinsfolk of the people who were martyred for the sake of the Palestinian cause and for the sake of the state, self-determination, and repatriation can accept such an agreement. This agreement cannot be a fulfillment of the pledge made to Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid] and his comrades, Fatah comrades, and the sons of [word indistinct].

There should be a comprehensive and popular referendum on this issue. Therefore, we will continue our fight against Israel and unify the ranks of the forces opposing this agreement. We call for the convening of a

PNC session. We also call for a popular referendum. There is also a final and basic point to make. We should prevent any internecine Palestinian fighting.

[Al-Imam] There has been a great deal of talk about Palestinian differences within the PLO and between the PLO and the other Palestinian groups. As the PFLP represents a PLO faction [words indistinct]

[Habash] [words indistinct] proposed the issue of the comprehensive national dialogue among all forces and organizations to deal with this serious situation facing the Palestine question. We now cannot [words indistinct] outside the PLO's framework. We cannot, for example, ignore the [words indistinct] the Islamic Jihad, Hamas, or forces, which had existed within the PLO's framework and that are now outside the PLO's framework. As this issue is important, we have proposed a comprehensive national dialogue including all parties. In this dialogue we should come up with what can be called a common denominator that will ensure the minimum national demand. We then should call a meeting of the PNC, which represents the Palestinian people inside [the occupied territories] and in the diaspora. Consequently, we can confront Israel and this dangerous plan through Palestinian unity and a Palestinian national trend. This is the issue the PFLP is proposing to deal with this situation.

Regarding the resignations, I believe that if the seriousness of that plan is understood, many members of the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council, and the PNC will never agree to ending the Palestinian revolution with a self-administration, even if the head of that administration is Yasir 'Arafat.

[Al-Imam] Dr. George: As we are about to resume the 11th round of talks, what do expect from this round in light of the current Palestinian circumstances?

[Habash] It is clear that this round will differ from previous ones. This round was preceded by visits by Ross and Christopher and by secret contacts between the PLO leadership and Israel. Consequently, there is a great possibility that this round will end with a declaration of Palestinian principles to solve the Palestine question. I have just explained our position on this option.

Strike Called by 10 Factions To Protest Peace Talks

JN2908181193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] In a press release, the 10 Palestinian factions have called on our domestic and diaspora Palestinian masses to observe 31 August 1993 as a day of general strike to dramatize their objection to the Madrid-Washington formula and the American paper.

With the 11th round of the Arab-Israeli talks set to start in Washington on 31 August, the 10 factions urged the negotiating team to pull out of the bilateral and mulilateral tracks of the negotiations.

Hamas Pledges 'Relentless War' Against Israel

JN3008104493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, announced in occupied Gaza today that it will not be a party to the Gaza-Jericho option and that it will continue with its war against Israel. The statement, issued by Hamas today, says: Proceeding from our awareness of our enemy's nature and in accordance with the teachings of our great Islam, we have declared a relentless war.

Rejects Gaza-Jericho

JN2908105493 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 29 Aug 93 p 19

[Text] London, QUDS PRESS—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has held the Palestinian leadership responsible for the current conditions in the Palestinian arena, accusing this leadership of exploiting the shortage of financial resources to pressure and starve the Palestinian people in order to force them to accept its capitulatory plans, as the movement puts it.

In a statement issued yesterday and sent to QUDS PRESS, the Palestinian movement, which opposes the peace process, asked what it called the dominating leadership responsible for the capitulative policy to resign, due to its responsibility for the deterioration in the Palestinian arena.

The statement added: We hold the dominating leadership responsible for the financial crisis within the PLO and for exploiting this crisis in order to disintegrate our people's establishments and to starve them, particularly the Palestinians in the occupied territories, in order to tame our masses so they will accept capitulation.

The statement added: This leadership has not satisfied itself with crossing the line of recognition of the Zionist entity. It has also stopped calling for the return of the territories the Zionist enemy occupied in 1967, it has accepted an ephemeral self-rule that only includes a very limited part of these territories.

The movement said the Palestinian leadership has accepted the U.S. declaration of principles and announced its readiness to exclude Jerusalem from the transitional stage of self-rule. The leadership agreed to delay talks on Jerusalem's status until the negotiations on the final status of the territories under the self-rule authority. It dropped the language on stopping settlement construction and called for partitioning the transitional self-rule so it will be immediately implemented in Gaza and Jericho, while its implementation on other territories is delayed. The statement said this is a blow against the popular will, and a violation of the red lines announced by the PLO leadership itself at the beginning of the peace negotiations.

The statement denounced the capitulatory policy of the PLO's dominating leadership. Recently, this policy has

led it to present the option of Gaza-Jericho First and may lead it to make further concessions on the road to full surrender to the Zionist enemy, as the statement described it.

The statement called on all representatives of the Palestinian opposition factions, members of the Palestine National Council, all Palestinian personalities, and Executive Committee members to shoulder their full responsibilities by confronting the capitulatory policy and forcing the dominating leadership to resign. The statement urged Palestinians to declare their rejection of surrender and the conspiracy designed to sell out Jerusalem and the blessed al-Aqsa mosque and called for employing all means possible to stop the capitulatory process.

The movement also announced its national reform program, which calls for the following:

- Withdrawal from the negotiations and a complete end to the capitulatory process and the deterioration facing our just cause;
- Rejecting any plans, settlements, and programs aimed to undermine our people's right to their full territories and homeland;
- Mobilizing the efforts of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories to confront the occupation and to entrench their steadfastness until victory and liberation;
- Agreement by influential forces on a program to escalate the comprehensive struggle against the brutal Zionist occupation, upgrade the blessed intifadah of our people, and form a joint leadership that guides popular activities;
- Banning the use of weapons to resolve differences between the Palestinian forces, and stressing that there is a room for all in the national arena;
- Sticking to our people's right to return, and rejecting all plans for evacuation, resettlement, and an alternative homeland;
- Reassessing the Palestinian people's establishments and reforming them on a just and democratic basis;
- Calling on all forces, factions, and national figures to engage in a comprehensive national and Islamic dialogue to reach an agreement on this program and the mechanisms for its implementation, considering this program to be the best means to overcome the crisis.

Pro-'Arafat Rally Held in East Jerusalem

TA2808062093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Supporters of Yasir 'Arafat held a rally last night in East Jerusalem. A spokesman for the Fatah movement, Husayn al-Shaykh from Ramallah, told some 200 participants in the meeting that, in his words, we will open fire on anyone who criticizes or mocks the PLO and its president, Abu-'Ammar. Abu-'Ammar is Yasir 'Arafat's byname.

U.S. Said 'Blackmailing' PLO Over Financial Crisis

JN2808205193 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: In times when principles have been disavowed, when there has been deterioration and the collapse of values and principles, abominable voices are raised to assail all noble, free, struggling, and honorable ones. In such times, a siege is tightened on the bastions of steadfastness and challenge, taking various forms and methods. Examples include the total blockade on Iraq and the financial siege of the PLO. The objective is to subdue, blackmail, and force these bastions into paying dear political prices in return for lifting the siege on them.

The United States, which is leading these sieges, imagines that by so doing it can achieve what it has failed to realize through bombs, missiles, and devastating raids. Governed by its materialism, the United States believes that everything, including values, principles, and ethics, can be bought or sold.

With regard to the Palestinian issue in particular, the United States has worked out a plan to drain the PLO's financial resources through the ill-reputed Henry Kissinger. The United States ordered the Gulf states not to pay any funds to the PLO.

From this premise, we see that the United States continues to suggest, in one way or another, to the Palestinian negotiating delegation that if it accepts the U.S. and Israeli proposals the financial siege of the PLO will be lifted. The United States wants to buy our position with a handful of dollars, believing that this might take place. The United States wants us to sell ourselves, our principles and values, and our people's just national and legitimate rights. By so doing, the United States is trying to maintain the Israeli occupation, believing, once again, that this may take place.

It is true that this is the logic of capitalism and imperialism based on materialism. This logic, however, is a desperate and sick one; it is the logic of a rich man whose fortune has turned him into a blind and unwise man, so he can no longer see realities as they are, and he can no longer believe that there are things that cannot be sold or purchased. These include freedom, independence, pride, dignity, love, and amity. These also include, and are led by, the blood of martyrs who fought for the homeland and its freedom and for a better future for the homeland's sons.

We will continue to say to the United States and its subservient followers that we would rather starve to death than to bargain on our cause, o enemy of the sun. We will continue to resist until the will of justice, good, and freedom—whose banner we are carrying with all pride—has triumphed. Yes, we will resist, and we will never submit to blackmail, regardless of our difficulties

and the unjust siege. We will never yield to blackmail. It is a revolution until victory.

Israeli, Western Media Exaggerate PLO's Problems

LD2908203093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Brothers, debates focus nowadays on very sensitive issues for the Palestinian people and its fateful causes. It is noticeable that Western and Israeli media have started spreading rumors that are liable to harm the future of the Palestinian people by exaggerating some of the problems the PLO suffer from. It is true that there are some differences and disagreements in the viewpoints which led to the spread of resignation fever from the PLO Executive Committee. But these differences are part of the challenges that our people face and have been accustomed to for many decades of struggle. But what is important is that a chance should not be given to the forces hostile to our revolution by exploiting these differences, putting them under a microscope, and making us neglect many other issues, foremost among them, the continued suffering of our people in occupied Palestine and the practices of the enemy that are still continuous amid a terrible information blackout.

Once again, we should be very cautious and vigilant and should not stop only at refuting the Israeli allegations or what they spread here and there every now and then. But we should initiate presenting and putting the spotlight on the continued suffering of our people, and on the Israeli violations of our rights and to initiate action rather than reaction.

Algeria

Four in 'Terrorist' Group Sentenced to Death

LD2908132293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The Oran Special Court today passed sentence on the 78-man Tiaret armed group. These 78 men were accused of carrying out several armed operations. Here is a dispatch on this subject from the Oran regional radio station:

[Reporter] The Oran Special Judicial Council this morning passed various sentences on the Tiaret group which consists of 78 men who were active in the area of [place name indistinct]. Death sentences were passed on four defendants, one of whom was sentenced in absentia. Life imprisonment terms were handed down to four defendants; sentences of 20 years imprisonment were passed on two defendants; three defendants received terms of 15 years imprisonment; one defendant received 12 years; seven received 10 years; 13 received eight years imprisonment; one defendant was sentenced to five years; nine received three years; one defendant was sentenced to two years; and two were sentenced to one year. Nine defendants were acquitted.

To remind you: The defendants were charged with forming an armed terrorist group, violating state security, conspiring against the authority of the state, possessing instigatory leaflets, concealing an armed group, committing murder, attempting to commit murder, using threatening and insulting behavior, and failing to report a criminal offense, as well as attacking a national gendarmerie barricade. During the trial the public prosecution had asked for 15 death sentences, including one in absentia, and 22 sentences of life imprisonment. It also asked for varying prison sentences ranging from five to 10 years to be passed on the other defendants.

Security Forces Kill 'Terrorist' in Algiers Suburb

LD2808225793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Security authorities said that one terrorist was eliminated in the (Sourikran) neighborhood in Bab El Zouar [Algiers suburb] at about 10 a.m. this morning.

The same source clarified that this terrorist had carried out several assassinations and robbery operations, including stealing hunting rifles and cars, killing a civilian, and trying to assassinate a member of the security [forces].

Egypt

Foreign Minister Views Beirut Meeting, 11th Round

Comments on Gaza-Jericho Proposal

NC2808110293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, 28 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expects the next round of peace negotiations to be more important than previous ones. If this round does not culminate in a declaration of principles on all tracks, it will at least pave the way for it, he said. Musa believes that Israel is taking a step in the right direction, although it has not made a breakthrough.

In an interview published by the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR today, Musa denied any Egyptian role in the Gaza-Jericho proposal currently under consideration by the Palestinians. He voiced Egypt's support for any project that restores even an inch of the occupied territories. He remarked that the final details of that project establishing the link with the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem have not yet materialized.

Asked about his reaction to King Husayn's objection to the Gaza-Jericho project, Musa said: I did not understand from King Husayn's statements that he was opposed to the proposal. Musa added that what he understood was that the king did not know the details of that proposal and that there was no Palestinian-Jordanian coordination on the subject.

Explaining Egypt's stand, Musa noted that Egypt's position is very serious. There is a certain proposal concerning Gaza and Jericho and we see no reason to oppose it so long as it is a Palestinian proposal and will be the subject of talks, he said, adding: The proposal has not taken its final form. The conditions, guarantees, and future of this proposal concern the Palestinians. As for returning Gaza and Jericho to the Palestinians as part of temporary progress toward a final solution, the idea as such does not involve any violation in my view, Musa said.

Touching on Jerusalem's final status and whether discussion of this matter has been postponed, Musa pointed out that the final status of Jerusalem is linked to the final status of the entire occupied territories and the final settlement.

Musa added: Right now, we are talking about a transitional period. The position of Jerusalem and its inhabitants at this stage is also under consideration, Musa said.

Terms Beirut Meeting 'Successful'

NC2808161493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1334 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo,28 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this afternoon from Beirut after attending the cordon states meeting that concluded

today. In an arrival statement, Musa described the meetings as successful and positive, noting that during the meeting agreement was reached to participate in the next round of bilateral peace talks, continue the consultation and coordination, and back the peace process. He pointed out that there is hope for reaching certain positive results during the next round of talks and for reaching some of the desired goals and approaching the main aim—a comprehensive settlement.

Musa said that the U.S. sponsor should perform its task as an honest partner and broker, as we have stressed in the statement released in Beirut today. He stressed that this [not further identified] is an encouraging sign for progress in the peace process. He noted that U.S.-Israeli contacts are continuing and that the United States holds contacts with this party and that one but what matters is that progress is made within the framework of the bilateral negotiations to get specific results in the next rounds of talks.

On the possibility of reaching an agreement on principles between Israel and the Palestinians, Musa said every bit of progress on any track will reflect positively on the other tracts. He noted that Egypt calls for a comprehensive settlement and this requires progress on all tracks.

On his tour of a number of African countries, Musa said that the trip was within the framework of Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU and aimed at coordination with these countries on certain African problems, particularly the situation in South Africa, Mozambique, and Angola. He noted that these issues were discussed with the foreign ministers of Angola and Mozambique and the director general of South Africa's Foreign Ministry. He noted that Egypt invited a number of African liberation movement leaders to visit Cairo next week to unify the national ranks in South Africa, bolster the democratic transformation there, and expedite efforts to establish a democratic state that respects man's freedom.

Musa voiced his hope that the negotiations between Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano and the opposition will produce positive results. He noted that in Zimbabwe and Mozambique he discussed a number of African issues. He said that he discussed the issue of Somalia with Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, as Kenya has common borders with Somalia. He stressed that all the countries he visited welcomed Egypt's joining the preferential trade agreement of the countries of east and south Africa, noting that President Museveni in his capacity as chairman of the member countries of this agreement will consider Egypt's membership before submitting the issue to the upcoming summit meeting of these countries.

Regarding terrorism, Musa stressed that an agreement on handing over defendants between Egypt and Pakistan and Afghanistan is a legal issue. He noted that contacts with Pakistan on this issue are under way and that contacts may be held with Afghanistan, noting that this is a legal issue that needs examination.

Responding to a question on the current differences in the Palestinian arena, Musa appealed to the Palestinian parties to unify their position.

Affirms Support for Palestinian Decision

NC3008140993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said Egypt is scrutinizing the Gaza-Jericho proposal. He added: If the Palestinians accept it, we will also agree with it, because this is a Palestinian decision.

In statements today, Musa said: Egypt welcomes any step that brings us closer to a solution of the Palestinian problem and any Israeli withdrawal from any part of the Arab territories occupied since 1967 is a step forward.

He expressed Egypt's hope that if an agreement is reached on the proposal, it will be followed by other steps toward a comprehensive solution within the Madrid formula according to the Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

On whether the Camp David Accord includes the measures covered in the Gaza-Jericho proposal, Musa explained that the Accord was a comprehensive agreement to achieve a complete withdrawal from Egyptian territory. It also covered the Palestinian issue in accordance with measures that include a transitional phase to be followed by a final stage, he said.

Musa said the Gaza-Jericho proposal is no more than a measure within the context of the Madrid conference toward a comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem.

He said that based on this, the agreement would constitute a step that is insufficient in itself, but that is a step toward "achieving autonomy" in all the occupied Palestinian territories and toward subsequent negotiations over the final status of the territories.

The foreign minister said that as long as the Palestinians and Israelis back this proposal, the Arab parties must support it. He noted that the other parties have no reason to oppose it.

'Amr Musa denied that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has abandoned the Palestinian cause, saying 'Arafat is working assiduously to achieve a comprehensive solution.

He concluded his remarks by affirming that Egypt is not proposing any ideas, but is extending support to the Palestinian initiatives, because the issue is a Palestinian concern. He declared: They make the decisions and we support that on which they agree.

Lebanon's al-Hariri Arrives in Alexandria for Meetings

Welcomed at Airport 29 Aug

NC2908074993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0722 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Alexandria, 29 Aug (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and the delegation accompanying him arrived at al-Nuzhah Airport in Alexandria this morning.

Al-Hariri was received at the airport by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Lebanon's ambassador in Cairo, the Lebanese charge d'affaires, and Lebanon's general consul in Alexandria. Members of the Lebanese delegation attending the conference on Islam's Cultural Contribution were also at the airport to receive al-Hariri.

Mubarak Receives al-Hariri

NC2908082693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Alexandria, 29 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria today.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Lebanese Cabinet Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar, and Lebanese Ambassador to Egypt 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh.

Mubarak on Importance of Negotiations

NC2908094593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Alexandria, 29 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has once again stressed the importance of negotiations to solve the Middle East problem. The Arabs have only the option of negotiations to achieve peace, he said.

In a statement to journalists after his meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today, President Mubarak said the problem cannot be solved through carrier pigeons.

Asked how he views the upcoming Arab-Israeli round of talks, Mubarak said: I support the next round of talks, and we must continue the negotiations until we reach a solution.

He added: We have the experience. Through negotiations we certainly can reach a solution. We must not get angry; we must carry on with the negotiations, present proposals everyday if necessary, and so on until the gap gets narrower, and peace is achieved.

Asked whether he hopes positive results will be attained, Mubarak said: I cannot talk specifically about the next round. All the upcoming rounds are sensitive, and I hope they will lead us to the hoped-for solution.

Asked if he is satisfied with the report presented to him by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the recent meetings in Beirut, Mubarak said he wished those meetings success. He described the Beirut meeting as good, saying it showed Arab and Egyptian intentions to support Lebanon.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal on the deployment of the Lebanese Army along the border with Israel, the president said: We leave this matter to Lebanon; it is the country concerned with making a decision on it. What we are saying is that we want peace, and we do not want foreign forces in Lebanon.

Al-Hariri on Meeting with Mubarak

NC2908094993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0927 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Alexandria, 29 Aug (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri expressed his satisfaction with the meeting he held with President Husni Mubarak today. The meeting was good, he said. Al-Hariri added that he and President Mubarak discussed the Middle East talks and Egypt's role in implementing the resolutions passed by the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Damascus concerning the way to confront Israel's aggression against south Lebanon.

The Lebanese prime minister said that Egypt has promised to increase its assistance to Lebanon to upward of $10 million. The assistance, he noted, consists of construction material and help to the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Al-Hariri said that President Mubarak expressed full support to Lebanon's role in negotiations. Replying to a question about the cabinet crisis in Lebanon, al-Hariri said that the crisis is over. He added that the situation in south Lebanon is good and heading toward stability.

Sidqi, al-Hariri Discuss Developments

NC2908104993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Alexandria, 29 Aug (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi met with visiting Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today.

They discussed efforts to achieve Arab coordination and solidarity concerning current Arab issues, especially the Lebanese problem.

The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations in all fields and the possibility of promoting and expanding them in the upcoming stage.

They also discussed the latest Lebanese developments, notably the situation in southern Lebanon.

Al-Hariri, Arab League Chief Depart

NC2908113393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Alexandria, 29 Aug (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and his delegation left Alexandria for Morocco this afternoon after a short visit during which al-Hariri met with President Husni Mubarak and held talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Al-Hariri is accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Al-Alfi Interviewed, Reaffirms Policy on Terrorism

NC2808170493 London MBC Television in Arabic 2130 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Interview with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi in Switzerland by Nidal Qabalan; carried in the "Face to Face" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Qabalan] One of the perpetrators in the attempt on your life was killed instantly and the other who remained alive died later. Have you any information about the identity of the perpetrators?

[Al-Alfi] They belonged to the so-called Islamic groups—and Islam has nothing to do with them—and were members of an organization now being tried by an Egyptian court in another case. From the one who died later, they [the investigation organs] succeeded in obtaining identities, addresses, and contacts. A large den was discovered and a large cache of weapons and explosives were immediately seized in a certain place. Other things seized suggested that there were other plots. [passage omitted]

The operation was a failure for them. They will fail no matter what they do, God willing. There is comprehensive planning, a strategy, and a new method of action concerning the collection of information, investigations, surveillance, training, tightening the control of exit points, and preparing cases. All this is done within the framework of the law, legitimacy, and humanity, too.

[Qabalan] Then there is no retreat from the policy of the iron fist against these extremists?

[Al-Alfi] There is no going back on anything that violates justice and the laws. We fear God. Any person who violates the laws and legitimacy must be confronted with the utmost decisiveness, strictness, and severity. We will never deviate from this. [passage omitted]

[Qabalan] Mr. Minister, do you believe that these groups in Egypt are operating alone or is there an Arab coordination between some of the extremist trends, as is the case in Algeria, for example?

[Al-Alfi] Some of them are undoubtedly cooperating with others abroad, in some countries and places. This is confirmed information. There is financing, people, and planning, but they will fail, God willing, because they are being exposed daily before the people so that the latter can confront them.

[Qabalan] This leads us, Mr. Minister, to the accusation leveled recently by the Egyptian Government against Iran and Sudan, specifically that of supporting some of these extremist groups. Is there evidence that proves these two countries' support for terrorism in Egypt?

[Al-Alfi] As an official, I cannot detail the aid or cooperation in this regard because I am responsible for every word I say. Investigations are under way and measures are being taken about which I cannot speak. It is only right not to speak about them until after all measures are completed so that the information will be confirmed and clear, and sound legal measures can be taken.

[Qabalan] But there must be evidence, otherwise the accusations would not have been made in the first place, right?

[Al-Alfi] There is no doubt that there is foreign cooperation, one hundred percent. This is clear to all the people and the world.

[Qabalan] If these suspicions are confirmed, and you become convinced that other countries are supporting the extremist groups in Egypt, what measures will you take to confront these parties?

[Al-Alfi] All the legal measures would be taken in accordance with the international law, international cooperation, the diplomatic ways and other ways stipulated by the international law and organizations. The whole world must cooperate to eliminate this terrorism which has undoubtedly become evident to everyone.

[Qabalan] Minister al-Alfi, the methods used by the extremist groups in Egypt, specifically the method of violence, to attain political objectives are undoubtedly rejected by Egypt, the Arabs, and the world. But do you believe that some of the ideas they are propounding, even in name, find some sympathy in Egyptian society?

[Al-Alfi] It might appear that there was some sympathy at some stages. But when the incidents increased, the sympathy completely disappeared. There is a public opinion that is more opposed to these groups. Their intention is to rule and serve personal interests. They are agents of some circles that want to destroy some regimes or try to attain power or use violence to achieve personal gains. This is, of course, rejected by public opinion, regardless of the cover-ups they use, because it has exposed them. The cover of religion has become an overt plot because religion, all divine religions, are very clear. God created man to build the earth and not to destroy, commit terrorism, shed blood, and have all this hatred. [passage omitted]

[Qabalan] Minister al-Alfi, a question here is the extent of the link between the spread of this wave of extremism and Egypt's economic situation?

[Al-Alfi] They exploit weak-willed individuals who are not educated or who suffer from unemployment or from their economic conditions. They use the economic angle to exploit them and deceive them with misleading ideas in return for some money or jobs. The ones deceived end up repenting. [passage omitted]

[Qabalan] You spoke about international cooperation to combat terrorism. Let us first speak about the Arab cooperation. How much coordination is there between the Arab interior ministers in their regular meetings with regard to confronting this phenomenon?

[Al-Alfi] There is full cooperation between the brother Arab interior ministers in the exchange of information and visits. There will be more bilateral agreements between all the Arab states because terrorism poses a danger to all of them and not Egypt alone.

[Qabalan] With regard to international cooperation, Egypt was the first foreign country that the CIA director visited after his appointment. Was the visit within the framework of the cooperation to confront terrorism?

[Al-Alfi] There is international cooperation among all countries, East and West, in this field from all aspects, such as the exchange of visits, training, equipment, and information, and in any aspect that will put an end to this grave terrorist trend.

[Qabalan] Islam is a religion of tolerance. Are you ready to be tolerant with these extremists if they abandon violence?

[Al-Alfi] As an interior minister, it is my duty to apply the laws and punish those who violate them and refer them to the judiciary within the context of legitimacy and the law. There are laws that permit reducing the punishment for those who make amends or repent their crimes. The state resorts to these laws. It undoubtedly welcomes such as a thing. [passage omitted]

Returns From Switzerland

NC2908195093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi returned to Cairo from Switzerland tonight following a successful operation to his right arm which was injured during the failed attempt to assassinate him earlier this month. [passage omitted]

Commenting on this failed attempt, the interior minister said that all aspects of shortcomings and slackness will be studied to avoid a repetition of such an operation and that a new security strategy will be drawn up that will ensure the security of every citizen and protect him. [passage omitted]

Efforts Said Made in Extradition of Peshawar Militants

NC2808093293 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 23 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] A responsible source has said that two days ago Egypt renewed contacts with Pakistan aiming to secure the extradition or deportation of some Egyptians who had participated in the Afghanistan war and are still living in Pakistan.

According to the source, a senior official in the Egyptian Government asked the Pakistani authorities to resume bilateral talks soon on the subject of the extradition or deportation of Egyptians living in Peshawar.

Exchanges between Cairo and Islamabad on that matter began early this year but have not yet yielded any tangible results.

The Egyptian move follows police reports to the effect that the 18 August attack on Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi was masterminded by Ayman al-Zawahiri, a physician living in Peshawar. Police reports describe al-Zawahiri as one of the founders of the Vanguards of Conquest organization. Fifty-three alleged members of the Vanguards of Conquest are currently standing trial in Cairo. Their group is believed to be an offshoot of the Islamic Jihad, a leading Islamist group in Egypt.

Fundamentalist Group Warns Against Harming Shaykh

NC2808062793 Paris AFP in English 0441 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Aug 28 (AFP)—An Egyptian Muslim fundamentalist group, al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, has issued a warning against all parties that might do harm to its spiritual leader, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, currently under indictment in the United States.

"The al-Jama'ah will seek vengeance on any party that harms Shaykh 'Umar 'Ab ' al-Rahman, our spiritual guide," declared an official from the group during Friday prayers in this southern Egyptian city.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, who has been in the United States since 1990, was charged Wednesday [25 August] by U.S. legal authorities in connection with a bomb blast last February against the World Trade Center in New York and on charges of participating in a plot to destroy buildings and tunnels elsewhere in the city.

U.S. Publicity Surrounding Blind Shaykh Criticized

NC2808155293 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, Aug 28 (AFP)—Egypt is unhappy with the United States for allowing radical Egyptian Muslim cleric 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman to enter the country,

where he is becoming a hero, President Husni Mubarak's spokesman said here Saturday [28 August].

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im told AFP that "the personality of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman is not at all like its portrayal in the U.S. media, who have made him a hero and a big star even though he is not that important in Egypt."

Egypt was "unhappy ... with the U.S. authorities" for allowing the status of the Egyptian cleric, who was arrested last week and indicted on terrorism conspiracy charges, to be inflated.

"President Mubarak said the Americans can do what they want with him. If he comes here he will be arrested ... He is not that important," 'Abd-al-Mun'im was quoted as telling Saturday's WASHINGTON POST.

"Egypt cannot stop the U.S. from taking its measures," he added.

On Thursday an Egyptian government adviser told AFP his country would continue to call for the shaykh's extradition, whatever the charges against him and their consequences for his stay in the United States.

'Abd-al-Mun'im dismissed the recent spate of anti-government guerrilla attacks in Egypt as "old terrorist tactics aimed at grabbing power."

The shaykh pleaded innocent in New York on Thursday to charges that he led a terrorist conspiracy to bomb targets including the World Trade Center and planned assassinations and kidnappings.

Nine of the 15 suspects charged in connection with the World Trade Center bombing and a plot against other New York targets are on hunger strike to protest prison conditions, according to their lawyers.

Trial of Eight Islamic Militants Resumes 29 Aug

NC2908174893 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, Aug 29 (AFP)—The trial of eight Islamic militants accused of killing two people in a bloody attack on an army general in Cairo in July resumed here Sunday [29 August] in a military court, court officials said.

The presiding judge read out charges against the suspects, four of whom are still on the run, accusing them of forming an illegal organisation aimed at undermining the state.

The militants are accused of taking part in an attack on an army general on July 18 which left a policeman, a passerby and two of the attackers dead.

They had aimed to kill General Ahmad 'Abdallah, president of Cairo's military courts, but targeted by mistake another general, who was not injured.

The court, in closed session, also accused two of them of the attempted murder of the general and five passersby.

'Abdallah passed 13 death sentences against Moslem fundamentalists in May.

The suspects, most of them from the Dayrut region of southern Egypt, a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism, are also accused of illegal possession of arms and explosives. They face a possible death penalty if found guilty.

The trial, which opened last Monday, will resume on September 7 to hear the reports of some 25 eyewitnesses, the presiding judge said.

'Thousands' Attack Police Station To Protest Beating

NC2908141593 Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Siwah, Egypt, Aug 29 (AFP)—Thousands of protesters in western Egypt attacked a police station with stones on Sunday [29 August] after an officer beat and seriously injured two brothers.

Residents of Siwah oasis, near the border with Libya, were angered that high school teacher Muhammad Abu-Bakr was beaten up by the local police chief, Major Sami Anwar, after a row over a driver's license.

The teacher's brother came to the rescue but was also beaten.

The protesters attacked the station with stones until police reinforcements were sent in from Marsa Matruh, 300 kilometers (185 miles) away, to restore order, a correspondent at the scene said.

Human rights groups have often accused Egyptian police of brutality, leading Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi to announce on taking office in April that any policeman committing such abuses would be punished.

Three Inmates Killed, 85 Wounded in Clash With Extremists

NC2808055493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2243 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Three inmates in the industrial prison in Abu-Za'bal were killed this evening during a severe clash between a group of arrested extremists and inmates in criminal cases. A total of 85 persons on both sides were slightly injured.

A responsible security source has explained that the clash ensued when some extremists tried to win to their side a number of inmates. Members of the two sides clashed with wooden boards they took from a concrete mold in a wall under construction in the prison.

The source added that all the injured persons were treated in the prison's health unit and that the prison security forces succeeded in containing the situation.

In another development, a security source has stated that a terrorist has died in prison. The terrorist, 'Abd-al-Sattar 'Abdallah Ahmad, was electrocuted as he was cooking his food. The body has been delivered to the family in Upper Egypt.

Sudan

Government Reaction to Terrorist Listing Continues

U.S. Has 'No Right' To Level Charges

EA2708123693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA)—Deputy chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Maj-Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih affirmed that the Sudan has no relation with terrorism, indicating that the United States has no right to speak about terrorism since it is the most terrorist state in the world.

In his address to the inaugural ceremony of Umm Bada police section, he said that Sudan has great concern for human rights and that Sudan has transformed the prisons built by colonialism into reformatory houses. He asserted the Sudanese people's readiness to defend the faith and nation and to confront the United States and its western allies, adding that the United States is supporting the rebel movement and impeding the peace process in the country.

U.S. Said To See Islamic Threat

AB2708151093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA)—Culture and Information Ministry's secretary-general, Amin Hasan Umar, has urged the national media to confront strongly the unjust campaign being waged by the international Zionism led by the United States against the Sudan. Umar, speaking during a meeting with the staff of the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) Thursday [26 August] held in the context of his enlightenment of the employees of corporations affiliated to the Culture and Information Ministry, explained the motivations behind the American decision putting the Sudan on what it calls the list of states sponsoring terrorism. He explained that the United States fears the emergence of the Sudan as a major power that may threaten its strategic interests due to Sudan's vast natural resources as well as its Islamic orientation. The Sudan with its economic potentialities is qualified to assume a major role in international markets, Umar said, adding that the fact has greatly annoyed the American Government, leading [it] to adopt irrational policies that lack objectivity. He called on SUNA employees to work for exposing the stances of America, including the terrorism it practises on other states and plotting against helpless nations.

Official on Diplomatic Staff in U.S.

EA2708170793 Khartoum SUNA in English 1100 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA)—First undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, Umar Yusif Baridu, said that the Sudan would not reduce its diplomatic mission in Washington in reaction to the U.S. move.

Dr. Qutbi al-Mahdi, director of the Administrative Affairs Department and ambassador at Foreign Ministry, said in an interview with the daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI issued here Friday [27 August], that the reduction of the U.S. diplomats in Khartoum is subject to the American Government appreciation.

Mahdi also said there is absolutely no cooperation between the two countries in economic and commercial fields, and emphasizing Baridu's statement saying that the Sudan would not take a similar step because the number of the Sudan diplomatic mission staff in Washington is limited. [sentence as received] He also added that the Sudan may increase the number of its staff at the mission in Washington to reflect an honorable stand of the Sudan in all international forums.

Tunisia

'Arafat Briefs Ben Ali on Palestinian Meetings

LD2908213893 Tunis Tunis Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] [Announcer] President Ben Ali met this afternoon with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Carthage Palace, in the presence of the Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya and Mr. Hakam Bil'awi, Fatah's Central Committee member.

Following this meeting, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] made the following statement:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] As you know, the Palestinian arena and the Palestinian issue are now going through an important and historic juncture, for this reason I had to meet Mr. President on this specific day to inform him of Palestinian developments taking place inside our occupied land, in the negotiations arena, and in the international contacts arena. I have also informed Mr. President about the outcome of the positive and good meetings, that have taken place recently during the last three days, between the Palestinian leadership and the PLO's Executive Committee, with the Palestinian delegation who moved today to Washington to start the 11th round [of talks].

At the same time, I have explained to the president our position toward the plan we presented to Mr. Christopher recently, regarding the declaration of principles, linked with the Gaza-Jericho First Option. Alongside this, I have informed the president of developments inside our occupied land and the difficult conditions our people are going through, in particular, the economic and financial conditions, in the face of the stifling crisis

and the financial siege imposed on the Palestinian people and leadership. I found all the understanding, all the positiveness, all the brotherhood from the president. I say once again to the grace of the Arabs [a pun, in Arabic Zine el-Arab], to Zine El Abidine: Thank you, thank you, and thank you. Thank you Mr. President, thank you to his government, and thank you to the sister Tunisian people. Together, until victory to the liberated Jerusalem, to pray together soon, God willing, at the First Qiblah and the third holiest mosque, the Prophet's ascension to heaven and the birthplace of Jesus, peace be upon him, and Jerusalem. [end recording]

Kuwait

Defection of Iraqi Intelligence Officer Reported

NC2808125293 Paris AFP in English 1246 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Aug 28 (AFP)—An Iraqi intelligence officer has defected to Kuwait where he has requested political asylum, the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH reported Saturday [28 August].

"Lieutenant 'Issam Husayn, who worked for Iraqi intelligence, has asked for political asylum (in Kuwait) to escape the tyranny of the (Iraqi) regime which is pursuing its inhuman practices against the Iraqi people," it said.

The paper said the Iraqi officer was picked up by Kuwaiti police at the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border.

The report came days after two former Iraqi ambassadors to Tunis and Canada announced they were joining the Iraqi opposition.

Iraqi Opposition Leader Hails Envoys' Defections

LD2808102593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0817 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Excerpts] [dateline indistinct]—Ahmad al-Shalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the opposition Unified Iraqi National Congress, today praised the humanitarian assistance recently provided by the Kuwaiti Government for the Iraqi people in the north. In a statement to KUNA, al-Shalabi said the congress and the Iraqi people are grateful to the Government and people of Kuwait for this generous humanitarian gesture. He added that this humanitarian relief was the first to be offered by an Arab government.

Al-Shalabi noted that a delegation of the congress is to visit Kuwait soon at the invitation of Kuwaiti officials, but he did not disclose the date of the visit. He said that he met Khalid al-Duwaysan, Kuwaiti ambassador in London, today to discuss the subject.

In reply to a question, al-Shalabi confirmed that the opposition Unified Iraqi National Congress set up a military training center in northern Iraq two months ago. However, he did not disclose the location of the camp. Al-Shalabi said that there are hundreds of Iraqi soldiers and officers who have deserted, and that they are from all segments of the Iraqi population—Arabs as well as Kurds. [passage omitted]

Regarding the defection to London last Tuesday of Dr. Hisham al-Shawi, Iraq's ambassador to Canada, and Hamid al-Juburi, Iraqi envoy to Tunisia, al-Shalabi said this had a great impact on the Iraqi regime; Saddam Husayn personally commented on the issue, which is an indication of Saddam's violent reaction.

Al-Shalabi refused to comment on whether any other senior Iraqi officials are planning to follow the example of their colleagues who have defected. He expressed the hope that other Iraqi officials would do the same.

Saudi Arabia

Official on Taxes Levied on Palestinian Workers

LD2808214793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Regarding statements published and broadcast by some of the media about the financial situations being suffered by the PLO due to the financial blockade imposed by the Arabian Gulf States on the organization following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and statements that these Gulf States were no longer paying the organization the financial allocations which they deduct from Palestinian employees, and that these funds are Palestinian and not the property of those states, 'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus, the director general of the Popular Committees in the Kingdom, said in a statement given today to SPA, that the transfers of the Popular Committee to the PLO during the period Safar 1411H—corresponding to September 1990—to Safar 1414H—corresponding to August 1993—amounted to 189,022,412 riyals.

He pointed out that with the said sum, the gross income of the Popular Committee, which was regularly transferred to the PLO since the Popular Committee began to help the Mujahidin of Palestine in the Kingdom at the end of 1387H—corresponding to the end of 1967—and until now at the end of 1413H—corresponding to 1993, has amounted to 1,484,990,406 Riyals.

'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus pointed out that the incomes of the Popular Committee to help the Mujahidin of Palestine in the Kingdom are regularly transferred to the PLO at the rate of once every two months, in accordance with the instructions from His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh and chairman of the Popular Committee for Assisting the Mujahidin of Palestine. He added that the Popular Committee for the Assistance of the Palestinian Mujahidin in the Kingdom has, for more than 26 years, represented and still represents a significant source of the great Saudi support for the Palestinian people, and an example to be followed in assisting the Palestinian struggle so that the Palestinian people can retrieve their usurped rights, at the forefront of which is their right to return and to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state whose capital is Holy Jerusalem.

Al-Juburi, al-Shawi Defections Keep Country 'Pure'

JN2808090993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—BABIL says that Hamid al-Juburi and Hisham al-Shawi, who have been condemned by the al-Jubur and al-Shawi tribes, acted correctly when they left the grouping of honest people. The paper adds: We want Iraq to remain pure and free of moths and filth. In an article under the headline "Let Us Keep Iraq's Environment Clean," BABIL today says: The traitors, opportunists, and those running after illegal gains at the expense of the interests of the people and homeland exist everywhere, and our homeland is not an exception to this rule. The paper adds: The exception, however, is the fact the number of those who betrayed their homeland, plotted against it, and who collapsed under the blows of the huge events is very small here.

BABIL adds that this number remains very small despite the difficult circumstances and bestial plotting which Iraq and its people face. BABIL says: Iraq should be really proud, because from the 20 million citizens in Iraq only tens or hundreds are deviants.

BABIL says: Praise be to God again, because none of those deviants has a shining history to abandon, and none of them will be remembered by the people.

'Golden Hawk II' Military Exercises Conclude 28 Aug

JN2808185393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—A five-day military exercise in the 2d Army Corps sector concluded today.

The "Golden Hawk II" exercise was carried out on the instructions of Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces. It was supervised by Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and a number of senior military and field commanders.

The defense minister was informed about the operations that were carried out during the exercise, the army units that took part in the exercise, and the measures that were taken in light of the operations at both the "Blue State [al-dawlah al-zarqa'] and Western Iraq" commands.

Defense Minister Cables Saddam

JN2808200693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Aug 93

["Text" of cable to President Saddam Husayn from Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid "at the conclusion of the Golden Hawk II exercise"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror in to the hearts of the enemies of God and your enemies. [Koranic verse]

To: The builder of the glory of Iraq and the prime and dauntless knight of the Arab nation, esteemed Staff Field Marshal leader President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq and commander in chief of the Armed Forces;

From: Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister;

Sir leader President: With the blessing of God, and in implementation of your sound instructions that aim to promote training and to arrive at the level that fits our Armed Forces, your stalwart men of the al-Yarmuk forces' command and accompanying commands and formations, under the direct supervision of the General Headquarters, carried out for five days and nights the largest training exercise in terms of performance and preparedness. During the exercise, participants arrived at accurate analyses and sound plans for the military operations and at the best formula for making sound decisions. Consequently, the exercise was administered in a logical and realistic sequence, meeting the objective of implementing your sound instructions.

Sir leader President: On behalf of your brave Armed Forces men who took part in the Golden Hawk II exercise, and in my own name, we pledge that we will remain brandished swords in your hand to defend great Iraq and its message, in which your men have absolute faith. The Iraqis will hold their heads high, living in glory under your militant leadership.

Sir leader President: May God preserve and watch over you. It is God Almighty who grants victory.

Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

[Signed] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister

Radio Recruits Officer Pilots for Air Force Academy

JN2808135793

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1050 GMT on 28 August, immediately after the regularly scheduled 1030 GMT newscast, carries an approximately 4-minute announcement by the Air Force Command. The announcement urged "preparatory education graduates," regardless of whether they studied scientific or literary subjects, to join the Air Force Academy as officer pilots in order to serve the homeland, the Army, and the Air Force, and to be "hawks of this homeland under the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, hero of victory and peace, may God protect him."

Graduates who wish to join the academy were urged to submit their applications to the Recruitment Office at the Air Force Hospital.

The announcement lists the requirements and conditions that must be met by applicants. Applicants must be Iraqi citizens, must be between 17-22 years old, and must pass the necessary medical checkups and physical fitness tests.

There was nothing peculiar or unusual noted in the announcement.

Technical Delegation Arrives in New York 29 Aug

JN2908191293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] New York, 29 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi technical delegation, led by Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Rashid, arrived in New York today to hold talks with the Security Council's Special Commission.

The departure from Amman of the Iraqi delegation was delayed as a result of the refusal of the U.S. authorities to provide protection for the delegation during its stay in New York. They, however, agreed to provide that protection after UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali intervened.

It has been decided that the talks will begin on Tuesday.

Two Iranian Revolution Guards Said Arrested

NC2708140493 Paris AFP in English 1329 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Aug 17 (AFP)—Two Iranian Revolutionary Guards were arrested last weekend after infiltrating Iraqi Kurdistan to reconnoiter the region for future Iranian artillery attacks, Kurdish authorities said Friday [27 August].

The chief of Kurdish "police" in Darbandikhan, in the Kurds' self-declared autonomous area of northern Iraq, said the two men were captured after a fierce Iranian bombardment of the region.

The two Iranians, members of the elite guard corps which operates both inside Iran and externally, admitted that they were on an intelligence mission and had to gather information for more bombardment of the region.

Four Iranian soldiers on a cross-border raid were captured by Iraqi Kurdish forces in July, and were released in mid-August following Iranian threats to bombard al-Sulaymaniyah, one of Iraqi Kurdistan's major towns.

Iran has been pounding artillery shells and conducting raids into Iraqi Kurdistan in pursuit of Iranian Kurdish groups based in the area, accusing the groups of conducting attacks on Iran.

The "governor" of Darbandikhan, Mustafa Cawresh [spelling as received] told AFP that villages 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the Iranian border had been bombarded last Sunday. One of the villages, Nautaq, is a base for an armed Iranian Kurdish separatist movement, the Democratic Kurdish Party of Iran (DKPI).

Iranian Artillery Said To Shell Kurdistan Villages

NC2908180693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] At 2100 on 27 August, the Iranian artillery bombarded the border areas of the Kurdistan region adjacent to Iran in the (?Qal'at Jiza) area. A Kurdistan paper reported today that the villages of (?Tulubulu), (?Suna), [name indistinct], and other adjacent villages in the area came under bombardment for more than three hours. It is worth noting that these areas come under daily hostile Iranian bombardment.

Paper Says Iran-Israel Arms Deals Target Iraq, Muslims

JN3008083193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—In an article today, AL-THAWRAH asserts that Iran's arms drive is targeted against Iraq and the Arab nation, not against Israel or the global-arrogance powers.

The paper says Iranian armament efforts agree with and serve the imperialist-Zionist scheme to undermine Iraq and drain its economic, military, and human resources.

It is not at all surprising to learn that Iranian oil worth $150 million recently arrived at the Israeli Port of Elat. It is also not at all strange that Iran and the Zionist side have reached an agreement to exchange Iranian oil for Israeli military hardware.

It is also not surprising that Iranian officials hold undeclared talks with Zionist officials and conclude oil and arms deals, the paper says. Officials of the two sides often meet, hold talks, and conclude deals. We would be surprised if they did not meet and did not conclude deals, and if Iranian oil shipments did not arrive at the Israeli Port of Elat.

The paper goes on: The ruling mullahs in Tehran have continued to raise their empty, trite slogans about liberating Jerusalem and Palestine. These slogans, however, will not conceal essential, established facts relating to the strategy and political approach of the Tehran regime. Slogans will not conceal Iran's oil and armament links with the Zionist entity and the global-arrogance powers, led by the great satan. The Iranian regime longs for conventional and strategic weapons. It is has been concluding deals with the East and West and with Israel since the first day of the cease-fire with Iraq on 8 August 1988, as if its defeat in the war was due to a shortage of military weapons and hardware.

The paper adds: Bearing in mind that the Iranian regime has spent all of Iran's oil revenues over the past five years on weapon purchases, it is perfectly reasonable that the mullahs conclude deals with Israel to exchange oil for military hardware, without paying attention to the consequences of this approach for its deteriorating domestic situation, especially the suffocating economic crisis.

The paper refers to a previous statement by Uri Sagi, chief of Zionist intelligence services, that Iran's armament efforts are not directed against Israel but against Iraq and other Islamic nations. The paper says the picture of Iranian-Israeli coordination is becoming clearer. It is logical that Israel should give military products to Iran in exchange for oil as long as Israel is reassured and completely confident that these weapons and products will not be used against it.

The paper concludes: What did the Iran of Khomeyni do with the weapon arsenals it inherited from the shah's regime and the weapons it acquired from Israel and the West? Why don't the mullahs pay attention to their deteriorating, explosive domestic situation and try to remedy that, instead of longing for weapons, wasting Iran's resources chasing a useless endeavor?

Planned Coup Attempt Said Uncovered by Regime

NC2808171793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] A reliable source from Baghdad has noted that the Iraqi regime uncovered a coup attempt which a group of officers and other ranks were planning to carry out on the night of 18-19 August. The conspirators were led by Major General Dr. Radi 'Abbas al-Takriti and included a number of officers from the Air Force. The time 0120 of 19 August was set for the planes to carry out their mission. However, the attempt was discovered by one of the radar stations in al-'Awja' area. So far, there are no confirmed reports about the fate of Maj. Gen. Raji 'Abbas al-Takriti.

'Extreme Tension' Reported in Madinat al-Thawrah

NC2708160193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Confirmed reports from Baghdad have said that extreme tension continues to prevail in Madinat al-Thawrah, one of the largest popular quarters of Baghdad, after a missile exploded in the quarter the day before yesterday, killing two children and injuring two others, according to the regime's news agency.

Iraqi opposition sources stated that large crowds gathered and public anger gripped the poor quarter, which is inhabited by over 1 million people. They expressed their condemnation of the bloody policies of the despicable regime and the fact that it contrives incidents against the overpowered people. These sources said the regime's security forces did not attempt to disperse the crowds this time round because they anticipated clashes and repercussions the extent of which cannot be known.

Karkuk Residents Subjected to 'Detention Campaigns'

NC2708161993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Citizens in Qada' Daquq in the governorate of Karkuk have been subjected to large detention campaigns. These campaigns also included stormings and bestial measures against the citizens and their belongings by the forces of the despicable tyrant.

Iraqi opposition sources said the tyrant's forces arrested during the storming campaigns over 200 citizens who have been transported to unknown destinations. They pointed out that the citizens expressed their anger and objections to such measures. The tyrant's authorities declared a state of emergency in the city [not further identified]. The sources noted that Saddam's authorities of oppression opened fire on the citizens who had gathered demanding the return of their detained sons and information about their unknown fate.

Arrests Follow Outbreak of 'Trouble' in Tikrit

NC2808153893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] According to reliable reports from Baghdad, trouble broke out recently in Tikrit, which compelled the ostracized regime's forces to intervene and arrest a large number of military and civilian citizens.

The reports, which were published today, said that tyrant Saddam Husayn's guards arrested more than 200 civilian officers [as heard] and executed a number of them. They added that these troubles scared the tyrant and made him angry because they took place in his birthplace and power base, thus underlining the regime's collapse and the fact that its supporters are abandoning it after becoming certain of the inevitability of its collapse.

Opposition Forces Reportedly Shoot Down Two Helicopters

LD2908200393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Two Iraqi Ba'ath regime military helicopters which were the target of the anti-aircraft units of the opposition forces have crashed in the western province of Ramadiyeh.

The Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq reported that following the crash and the death of the helicopter pilots, the head of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, went to the scene of the crash and punished the officials of the province.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi opposition radio reported that the mujahidin forces of the Islamic revolution of Iraq have killed two of the regime's intelligence agents.

Clandestine Negotiations on Peace Process Held

Peres, Christopher Meet

TA2808043493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet this weekend to discuss the latest developments in the peace process. According to Qol Yisra'el's Washington correspondent Arye Golan, Shim'on Peres has secretly flown to Warren Christopher's vacation retreat in Santa Barbara, California. Israel's ambassador to the United States, Professor Itamar Rabinovich, is accompanying Peres.

Israeli officials in Washington and Jerusalem have refused to comment on the report. Peres is expected to brief the U.S. secretary of state on his talks in Scandinavia, where according to press reports he met with a senior PLO official to discuss the Gaza Jericho First proposal.

Christopher Calls Rabin

TA2808194293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz was told that Christopher sought to ascertain Israel's positions prior to the resumption of the peace talks.

Agreements Expected in Washington

TA2908050993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning returned from his visit to the United States, where he met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at Point Magu Naval Air Station in California over the weekend. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst accompanied Peres on his journey. The breakthrough taking shape in the contacts with the Palestinians apparently occurred in Oslo.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told his U.S. counterpart Christopher that real progress was attained in the secret talks he held with the PLO via the Norwegian foreign minister last week. This is reported by our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan. In these contacts it has been agreed that the Palestinians will not receive control over the Jordan bridges when the self-rule in Jericho and Gaza is established. As far as is known, Secretary of State Christopher did not express any reservations about the agreement formulated by Peres in the talks he conducted through Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst last week. It has also been learned that Shim'on Peres' secret trip to meet Warren Christopher at the Navy base at Point Magu was initiated by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. After being briefed by Peres about the results of his talks in Norway, the prime minister called Christopher and suggested that Peres come to update him.

A senior Israeli source says significant progress was made in the negotiations with the Palestinians and that now the achievements made by Peres in secret contacts must be translated into concrete progress in the Washington talks and into a formal agreement over a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles, as well as into an agreement on early empowerment.

A short time after meeting Peres, Warren Christopher phoned Prime Minister Rabin in Jerusalem in order to receive clarifications about the Israeli Government's positions. Mr. Rabin's spokesman said, however, that the foreign minister acted on behalf of the prime minister.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, Dani Rothschild, and Eytan Bentzur, heads of the Israeli peace delegation for talks with the Palestinians, are delaying their departure to Washington until after the cabinet session.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 29 August adds: "Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the document of principles slated to be signed in the near future between Israel and the Palestinians will include the Gaza-Jericho First idea, and will be similar to the previous document of principles proposed by the Americans. It will also say that the status of Jerusalem and the autonomy's jurisdiction will be discussed in the framework of the negotiations over the permanent stage."]

Rabin on Latest Developments

TA2908060593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Aug 93 p 2

[Report by Nahum Barne'a]

[Text] "Progress was made in the talks with the Palestinians. In view of that, I approached U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to receive Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who would personally brief him. I did not want to act without coordinating with the Americans." These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night.

For Rabin, the round of talks beginning in Washington this week will be a test of the Palestinians' sincerity. "We will see whether what the Palestinians told us in private conversations will be reflected in the Washington negotiations." The Palestinians, the prime minister added, are supposed to sign a joint declaration of principles. Rabin does not anticipate similar progress to take place in the talks with Syria at this time. The Syrians have pointed out that progress can be made only in shuttle tours between Rabin and al-Asad.

[Barne'a] Do the understandings you have achieved with the Palestinians lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state?

[Rabin] We are not talking about a state. We are talking about a five-year interim arrangement. Our stand against a state is well known. Any attempt to link the interim arrangement with the permanent arrangement is bunk.

[Barne'a] And if the Palestinians try to declare a state?

[Rabin] There is always the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

The prime minister added: "An important declaration of principles is at stake. Practical details will be negotiated later."

Authoritative sources said yesterday that one advantage of the understanding reached with the Palestinians lies in the fact that if the Palestinians violate the agreement, the situation can always be reversed. Another advantage: Contrary to the Madrid formula, which requires concurrent progress with all the Arab elements, a chance to weaken that link has now been offered.

The IDF will withdraw in Gaza and Jericho to locations on which agreement will be reached on the basis of Camp David. Jericho was selected as the base of the autonomy institutions. The city itself is not intrinsically significant. Under the agreement, all the Israeli settlements will remain where they are. The IDF will remain in the area. Israel will retain exit terminals. The Palestinians have agreed to that.

Israel did not ask the Americans to finance the PLO. Israel was afraid that if it did, the United States would deduct the money from the Israeli aid. The Europeans will aid the Palestinians, and if the Americans wish to extend aid, they will do so of their own initiative. Israeli or U.S. recognition of the PLO is not on the agenda at the moment.

Agreement Said Reached on Troops

TA2808162093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that it has been agreed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will redeploy its forces within the framework of the basic understandings of the Gaza-Jericho First proposal. In the first stage, the redeployment will be carried out in the area of the Gaza Strip, and later on it will be implemented in the Jericho area. This understanding will be finalized over the coming months.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said that the components of the Gaza-Jericho First proposal offer the Arabs in the Gaza Strip more than autonomy but less than sovereignty. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will return to Israel early tomorrow morning in order to participate in tomorrow's weekly cabinet session.

Details on Contacts Reported

TA2908065393

[Editorial Report] All 29 August Hebrew newspapers carry extensive reports on Peres' talks with Palestinians elements, which allegedly led to Israeli-Palestinian understandings.

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT, in a report by Shim'on Schiffer on pages 2 and 15, states: "Last night Christopher phoned Rabin to hear his version of events related to the contacts with the PLO. It can be assumed that in his talk with Rabin, Christopher heard nothing new beyond what he heard from Peres. He was told by Rabin that Peres and a PLO representative had achieved accords on the joint declaration principles, which will be the basis of the future Palestinian self-administration in the territories. According to these principles, the self-administration will be first implemented in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"The PLO leaders agreed in principle that Israel will retain responsibility for security in the West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, although IDF troops will redeploy outside Palestinian population centers. It was further agreed that the Palestinian self-administration will not apply to Israeli settlements and Israeli citizens moving in the territories. Israel will agree to hand over responsibility for internal security to a strong Palestinian police to be established in the territories."

Writing on page 2 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT, Amnon Barzilay and Washington-based correspondent Natan Gutman report that "a clause which Israel suggests should be incorporated in the U.S. document of principles constitutes a significant deviation from the Camp David accords. It will state, among other things, that self-government will be established in the Gaza Strip without preliminary elections and without an administrative council. It was apparently agreed in informal Israeli-Palestinian talks that the Palestinian self-government heads will be appointed by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and Faysal al-Husayni, in coordination with the Israeli Government. Conversely, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullback from densely populated Gaza Strip areas will be carried out in accordance with the Camp David accords.

"Israel and the Palestinians have agreed that the Palestinians will not have sovereignty over the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, the Palestinian police will be in charge of the self-government's internal security, while the Israeli security forces will remain in charge of security outside the self-government, including exits to Israel and the borders."

The HADASHOT article adds: "Senior political sources attribute great significance to the U.S. consent to the addition to the document of principles, anticipating that it will be an opening toward a historic signing of a joint Israeli-Palestinian document this or next week."

A related Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ report by Hemi Shalev, Ori Nir, Gay Bekhor, and Yosi Torpstein on pages A1 and A10, adds: "One of the issues which has not been fully discussed is the PLO demand to be a full partner in the signing of the declaration of principles, and to be a formal negotiating partner thereafter."

Mutual Recognition 'Possibility'

TA2908111893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned that in the wake of recent contacts between Israeli and Palestinian elements, there is a possibility of Israeli recognition of the PLO. In exchange, the PLO will recognize Israel, will guarantee to halt terrorism, and will not oppose Israeli action against other Palestinian elements that do not put an end to terrorism. In addition to this, several clauses in the Palestinian Covenant which Israel regards gravely will be withdrawn. Apparently Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is wavering on whether to submit these understandings for government approval tomorrow.

Our political correspondent adds it is possible that the document of principles will be signed this week, and that Foreign Minister Peres will travel to the United States in order to participate in the signing ceremony.

Details of Agreement Viewed

TA2908192993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Studio talk between anchorman Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] Will the cabinet ministers see the documents for the first time at tomorrow evening's cabinet session at 1900 [1600 GMT]?

[Sukenik] They will be permitted to peruse the documents starting tomorrow morning. The cabinet is slated to hold a special session tomorrow evening at 1900 in order to approve the agreement.

[Ahime'ir] Perhaps you have additional details? Is it merely one or several documents and agreements?

[Sukenik] I have been informed of the contents of the documents. There are three documents: a detailed document of principles which constitutes the framework which spells out the nature of the Palestinian self-administration, the autonomy, in general lines. The second document is a document of understandings that clarifies the problematic clauses in the first paper, such as for example the status of Jerusalem, or the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal. This is not a detailed document. The third document, which is new, is an economic paper that says that as soon as the agreement is signed, a joint Palestinian-Israeli committee will be established, and for the first time there will be joint cooperation on economic issues and on drawing investments into the territories.

[Ahime'ir] Is there any discussion of geographical boundaries or borders in these documents?

[Sukenik] No. There is one new clause in the comprehensive document of principles that mentions the issue of Gaza and Jericho first in a general sense. Later, the agreement on Gaza-Jericho First, which serves as the basis for this model of self-government, will be discussed in more detail; however, there has been no mention of territory. The issue of territory is a problematic one. The Palestinians demanded all the territories and Israel refused. This issue has been kept ambiguous and will be discussed later.

[Ahime'ir] When will the autonomy agreement take effect?

[Sukenik] That is a very interesting point that nobody has paid any attention to yet. It has been agreed that as soon as the detailed document on Gaza-Jericho First is signed by both parties the countdown will start for the five years of Palestinian self- government....

[Ahime'ir, interrupting] Even before a general agreement on autonomy in the territories?

[Sukenik] Yes, we are talking about an interim accord for five years, with the initial implementation in Gaza and Jericho. This interim arrangement will apparently later include additional territories that will gradually assume these powers and become areas of Palestinian self-government. The five years will start ticking from the moment the Gaza-Jericho First agreement is signed.

[Ahime'ir] That means that the autonomy's timetable has been greatly shortened.

[Sukenik] Yes, it has been shortened. Instead of an immediate and comprehensive agreement there will be an agreement in stages, but the five years start elapsing from the very beginning. After the five years, there will be a permanent arrangement in the territories.

[Ahime'ir] We use the term autonomy a lot. I suppose that it is mentioned in the agreement?

[Sukenik] To the best of my knowledge the term autonomy is not mentioned in the document. Apparently, in order to differentiate between the interim accord and the permanent arrangement that will take force in five years. This, so that the Palestinians do not come back and say that they are getting autonomy now with the permanent arrangement being a Palestinian state. Israel at this stage is saying no to Palestinian sovereignty.

[Ahime'ir] What territories will the Palestinians control?

[Sukenik] That is a very interesting point, because until now there has only been talk of their own private land as

well as public land. Today, in Gaza and Jericho, there is also talk of state land in the territories. The document speaks of all the state land, and this runs contrary to what has been said up till now. It is no wonder that Elyaqim Rubinstein was very surprised and even asked to resign. There are other clauses, which may be especially problematic, such as those stating that Israel will control the Jordan River bridges, as opposed to the Palestinian demand. As for the IDF's withdrawal, and I am quoting from the document now: The IDF will remain responsible for security along the confrontation lines. This is a bit vague and will require some clarification. But there is no doubt that the agreement entails the IDF's withdrawal from population centers while retaining some outposts.

[Ahime'ir] A general IDF withdrawal from the population centers?

[Sukenik] That is the prevailing assessment; however, this will also be discussed. I do not believe that the prime minister will agree to a total IDF withdrawal from these areas until it becomes clear that their security can be guaranteed. We are talking about redeployment along the lines formulated by the Americans at the time, a redeployment [preceding word in English]. This issue also requires some clarification. In general, we are talking about self-government in all fields excluding security, foreign affairs, Jewish residents, and the Israeli settlements.

[Ahime'ir] What about the most dramatic development in Israel's history? Is the PLO mentioned in these documents?

[Sukenik] Again, the PLO was neither mentioned in these documents nor during the cabinet session. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres did not mention the PLO. All that was said was the same kind of phrasings employed in the document of principles formulated by the Americans stipulating that both parties promise to stop the violence in the territories; however, it appears that Foreign Minister Peres has reached an understanding that once the agreement is signed in Washington, perhaps in a matter of days, the PLO will declare a halt to the intifadah and to terrorism. From there, the path to mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel may be very short.

[Ahime'ir] Thank you, Gadi Sukenik.

Gaza Self-Government Plan Reported

TA3008043793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The plan for self-government in Gaza will begin to be implemented within six months. During the contacts held by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, it was agreed that in the course of the next two months there would be a discussion on the details of the self-government plan, and their implementation would last four months.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that implementing the plan in Jericho may take longer, because the scope of the territory that will be under the self-government authority has yet to be decided.

The cabinet is scheduled to convene this evening to approve the document of principles formulated with the Palestinians. The ministers will be able to peruse the documents and their addenda at the Government Secretariat starting this morning.

'Text' of Agreement Preamble

NC3008104293 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 30 (AFP)—The text of the preamble to the first peace agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization granting limited Palestinian autonomy is as follows:

"The Government of Israel and the Palestinian group which represents the Palestinian people agree that the time has come to put an end to decades of conflict and confrontation, to recognize mutually the legitimate and political rights of both parties and to act with all their force for peaceful co-existence, honour and mutual security and to obtain a just and lasting overall peace understanding and historic reconciliation within the framework of the peace process."

The text, seen by AFP on Monday [30 August], is the official Hebrew version from the original in English and translated back.

The preamble is followed by three documents: a five-page declaration of principles, an eight-page memorandum and four annexes on cooperation between Israel and the future Palestinian administration.

The content of the documents, which could be signed at the Middle East peace talks which open in Washington on Tuesday, is being kept secret. Ministers can only read the documents in the office of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, a cabinet member told reporters.

The cabinet meets Tuesday evening to approve the agreement.

Gaza-Jericho First Versions Compared

TA3008110693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Aug 93 p 2

[Report on "highlights of the agreement with the PLO" by Shim'on Schiffer and Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will today present the cabinet with the details of the agreement with the Palestinians. This agreement includes a five-page "statement of principles," an eight-page memorandum and four addenda dealing with future cooperation on economic and other issues, between Israel and the Palestinian authority that will be set up in the territories.

Although the parties have agreed on the text of the agreement, and on the fact that the English text will be the legally binding version, each side is presenting its own different text of the document to its public.

Here are the various clauses in the agreement as presented both by Israel and by the Palestinians.

Statement of Principles

Israel: "In the spirit of our desire to resolve conflicts through peaceful means, and while recognizing the rights of the parties to the conflict, Israel and the Palestinian delegation commit themselves to establish a self-administration on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

The Palestinians: The implementation of self-administration in Gaza and Jericho first is the start of the implementation of the permanent stage, and the implementation of the Israeli withdrawal from all the territories on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.

Authorities

Israel: The authorities of the administration in many fields will be transferred to the self-administration council. Israel will retain responsibility for security issues, foreign affairs, and sovereignty.

The Palestinians: With the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Gaza and Jericho, all the authorities of government in these areas will be turned over to the Palestinians. Immediately after the agreement on Gaza and Jericho, the early empowerment of the Palestinians by Israel will begin. Within this framework, the Palestinians will assume responsibility for the fields of education, health, labor issues, welfare, tourism, and direct taxation.

Self-Administration

Israel: The authorities will be turned over to an appointed self- administration council in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. In the rest of the territories they will be turned over to an elected self-administration council.

The Palestinians: Elections will be held in Gaza and Jericho, after which a government will be established to govern the two regions. The Palestinian Government will maintain contact with the self-administration bodies in the other parts of the territories.

Territorial Jurisdiction

Israel: "The territorial jurisdiction of the council will include the areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, except for issues that will be discussed in the framework of negotiations for the permanent arrangement: Jerusalem, the settlements, military areas and (the fate of the) Israelis [in the territories]."

The Palestinians: The demand is that the territorial jurisdiction of the autonomy extend to areas of the Gaza Strip, Judaea, and Samaria according to the 1967 lines, including East Jerusalem.

Security

Israel: Following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the population centers in the areas turned over to the self-administration, Israel will continue to be responsible for external and internal security, as well as matters of public order pertaining to Israeli citizens and to the settlements. IDF forces and Israeli civilians will continue to enjoy free passage on the roads in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. A strong Palestinian police force will be established, which will be responsible for internal security.

The Palestinians: Internal security in both areas will be entrusted to a Palestinian security and police force.

IDF Presence

Israel: The IDF will "redeploy" in agreed upon locations.

The Palestinians: The IDF will withdraw from the territories that will be turned over to the self-administration. A detailed timetable will be set for the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Israel will begin a phased withdrawal from the territories already during the interim stage, prior to their transferal to Palestinian hands on a permanent basis.

Border Checkpoints

Israel: The IDF will continue to supervise the border checkpoints on the Jordan River bridges and along the border with Egypt.

The Palestinians: The United Nations will be responsible for supervising the border checkpoints along the Jordanian and Egyptian borders.

Interim Period

Israel: The five-year interim period starts from the moment the agreement in Gaza and Jericho is implemented. Three years after Jericho and Gaza, the negotiations will begin on the permanent arrangement.

The Palestinians: The interim period in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, prior to the decision on their permanent status, will be shortened to two years. After these two years, discussions will commence on the permanent status of the territories in their entirety.

—Jerusalem

Israel: The discussion on the status of Jerusalem will begin at the same time as the negotiations on the permanent arrangement, three years after the signing of the agreement on self-administration.

The Palestinians: The discussion of the status of Jerusalem will be put off until discussions begin on the permanent status of the territories.

The PLO's Status

Israel: The PLO is not mentioned in the agreement.

The Palestinians: The Madrid formula will be altered. After the signing of the document of principles and the agreement on Gaza-Jericho First, an official representative of the PLO will be incorporated into the negotiations with Israel.

The Right of Passage

Israel: The IDF and Israeli citizens will be permitted to continue using highways and roads in the areas that will be turned over to the self-administration. There will be no land corridor under Palestinian control between Gaza and the West Bank.

The Palestinians: Arrangements will be made for overland and aerial passage between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and for the traffic of people and goods.

Settlements

Israel: The self-administration will not apply to the settlements in the territories and their residents.

The Palestinians: Israel will cease the construction of settlements, will make efforts to improve living conditions in the territories and improve human rights.

Economy

Israel: The international community will mobilize to help implement the self-administration.

The Palestinians: Both parties, with the aid of the Arab states, European countries, and the United States, will make efforts to develop the economy of both the areas and build an economic and social infrastructure in the territories.

Ministers Comment on Agreement, Recognition of PLO

Cabinet Meets on Gaza-Jericho

TA2908103393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] The political issue took up only a short time of today's cabinet session, which will be devoted mostly to the 1994 budget. Many lofty words were floated in the air; there was talk of a historic agreement, of new horizons, of great chances opened both with the Palestinians and the Syrians. At times it appeared that the ministers were competing in their expressions of lofty words for the chances of advancing the negotiations with the Palestinians.

We now have official confirmation of the official contacts held with the Palestinians. In the cabinet session it was stressed, however, that these Palestinians are residents of the territories [as heard]—and this information warrants further examination.

It is also very interesting to note that at this point Norway is playing an extremely significant role as a mediator in the negotiations.

Jerusalem is a very sensitive and loaded issue. In the session it was said that the residents of Jerusalem, both Jews and Arabs, as well as the settlements in the Jerusalem area, are outside the framework of the negotiations at this stage. The Arab residents of Jerusalem will be able to participate in elections for the autonomy institutes, but the ballot boxes will be located outside the city's territory.

Another issue which indicates that we are dealing here with autonomy and nothing else is the responsibility for security. It was stated that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will continue to be responsible for security along the confrontation lines, as well as on the Jordan bridges.

These are the first details from the political segment of the cabinet session, and as noted, the ministers were very satisfied in today's session.

We should also note that before the cabinet convened, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a brief meeting, just after the latter returned from his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the United States.

To Hold Special Session

TA2908105893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpt] Tomorrow the government will hold a special session to be entirely devoted to the political issue in order to approve the agreement consolidated with the Palestinians. It can be said that the agreement is already finalized. Now it will be put to public test during the Washington negotiations.

Before going into the details of the agreement, a correction is called for: During the cabinet session there was confirmation that contacts were held with Palestinians who are not residents of the territories. According to the information I managed to obtain, Shim'on Peres and other officials held more than one meeting in Europe—for example more than once in Norway—with PLO officials, mostly with the PLO's economic expert Ahmad Abu-al-'Ala'. To repeat, these meetings were held on several occasions, and through Abu-al-'Ala' the so-called breakthrough was achieved. This is what Police Minister Moshe Shahal said about the agreement:

[Begin Shahal recording] We are dealing here with an interim arrangement which does not include elements of

the permanent stage. This arrangement will not be implemented in Jerusalem, in the settlements of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and does not include the Jewish settlers. The issues of security, foreign affairs, and sovereignty will remain in Israeli hands. The arrangement will pave the way for a document of principles without any additional discussions and arguments in Washington. This will actually be the test of this arrangement. It will also enable us to treat very important internal security issues, including an understanding that during this interim stage there will be a clear agreement to refrain from violence and terrorism—with all this entails. [end recording]

This is how Minister Moshe Shahal briefly described the principles of the agreement, which will be brought for government approval tomorrow, and which will be submitted in Washington in the framework of the Israeli-Palestinian document of principles. An interesting point in Shahal's remarks relates to an agreement to abstain from hostile and terrorist acts during the implementation of this agreement. [passage omitted]

Ramon on Special Cabinet Session

TA2908162893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Hayim Ramon by Mikha Friedman and Pnina Bat-Tzvi—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good evening, Health Minister Hayim Ramon. Are you tense and excited about tomorrow's cabinet session.

[Ramon] Certainly. I am both tense and excited. It is not every day that the cabinet discusses a possibly significant breakthrough in Israel's relations with the Arab states, and with the Palestinians in particular.

[Friedman] There are also reports that during tomorrow's cabinet session, Jerusalem and Tunis may issue a joint declaration that Israel and the PLO recognize each other, that the PLO will make significant amendments in the Palestinian Covenant, halt all terrorist activities, and give Israel a free hand to forcefully act against Palestinians attempting to sabotage the peace process.

[Ramon] Permit me not to get into details of this kind. At tomorrow's cabinet session, however, a document of principles between Israel and the Palestinians will be presented. This includes all the Palestinians who support peace, oppose terrorism, and recognize Israel's right to exist.

[Friedman] Regardless of whether they live in Ramallah or in Tunis?

[Ramon] Regardless of where they live, as long as they fully support peace, oppose terrorism, and are prepared to act against it. We will then see how we make progress toward a grand reconciliation.

[Bat-Tzvi] Did the story of the contacts with PLO-Tunis actually come of the closet at today's cabinet session. Was that what happened today?

[Ramon] Yes, definitely. This story came out of the closet. One must understand the matter. It is very important to stress that the contacts with officials from the PLO leadership in Tunis were conducted with people that met our criteria. They were opposed to terrorism, did not employ terrorist methods, and recognized the State of Israel's right to exist. In other words, these people met the good, old, criteria of the Yariv-Shemtov formula. We discovered that despite all the hopes and expectations we had pinned on the delegation from the territories and on the local leadership, it became clear—even after the inclusion of Faysal al-Husayni—that they could not deliver the goods. They were incapable of signing an agreement.

[Friedman] Our correspondent spoke with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Arafat's spokesman, a short while ago. One of the things 'Abd-Rabbuh said was that the agreement was an arrangement for autonomy throughout all the territories, not just in the Gaza Strip and Jericho first.

[Ramon] We are talking about an autonomy arrangement. That is what we wanted and what we have been discussing all the time. What we are talking about is a far more rapid and comprehensive implementation of the autonomy in Gaza and in Jericho, especially in Gaza, and certain details still have to be worked out in this regard here as well.

[Friedman] Will the Qatif Bloc settlements in Gaza be relocated within the framework of this agreement?

[Ramon] No. The Qatif Bloc settlements will not be removed. No Jewish settlements in the territories will be relocated during the period of the autonomy.

[Friedman] And afterwards?

[Ramon] This matter has also been clarified, and both the settlements and the Jewish residents in the territories will remain under Israeli authority.

[Friedman] What will happen after the autonomy period?

[Ramon] Any issues pertaining to the permanent settlement are not included in the interim arrangement, neither questions of sovereignty nor security matters. At this stage, Israel retains control over the settlements and security matters, and the results of the permanent settlement depend to a great deal on the developments during the interim stage.

[Friedman] Minister Ramon, the opposition led by Binyamin Netanyahu explicitly demanded today that the government call for new elections before any agreement. Will the government be prepared to hold new elections, especially in light of its coalition agreement with SHAS

[Torah Observing Sephardim] for example, which stipulates the holding of elections or a national referendum in such an event? After all, we all know how Rabin sticks to his commitments.

[Ramon] First of all, the coalition agreement speaks of elections or a national referendum only in the event of territorial withdrawal. Since the interim arrangement currently being formulated in the document of principles does not involve any territorial withdrawal, we are not obligated by the coalition agreement to call for new elections or conduct a national referendum, nor is SHAS demanding that we do so.

[Bat-Tzvi] In the interview with 'Abd-Rabbuh from Tunis, he said that he did not rule out a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin. Did you hear anything about that at today's cabinet session?

[Ramon] I would not put the cart before the horse and discuss something which may happen at a later stage.

[Bat-Tzvi] Just give us the facts.

[Ramon] As far as facts go, we heard nothing about it. I think it is too early to speak of this. We are talking about an interim arrangement for autonomy which will apply to the residents of the territories. Let us leave something for the future and not exhaust all the political issues, which we will be dealing with for some time, in one phone call or interview.

[Friedman] Thank you, Minister Ramon.

Rubinstein May Resign

TA2908171893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Agreement has been reached on a joint document of principles between Israel and Palestinians under the title of Gaza-Jericho First. This time, the PLO is coming in through the front door as a full partner in the political arena. Israel's political echelon is in a frenzy. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Most of the cabinet ministers were in for a surprise today despite all the recent media reports. They did not know that the Palestinians and Israel had already reached agreement on a document of principles. The move led by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in recent months was known only to a select few. Even Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who heads the delegation to the negotiations with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, was completely in the dark. Officials at the Prime Minister's Office have received the impression that Rubinstein is thinking about resigning. Rubinstein himself told me a short while ago that he had indeed been surprised and was now studying the new material. An authoritative source confirmed that after Rubinstein was familiar with the material he would decide whether or not he was resigning. At any rate, Rubinstein is not leaving for Washington before tomorrow evening's cabinet session is over.

What did Foreign Minister Peres achieve in a series of secret contacts over recent months in Europe? The issue under discussion is an interim arrangement on autonomy plus, which will already be implemented soon in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Jerusalem and the Jewish settlements remain outside the framework of discussions. The Arab residents of Jerusalem will be permitted to vote in ballots outside of the city. Security and foreign affairs will remain Israel's responsibility. Police Minister Moshe Shahal is the man to ask when the Palestinian police will start operating.

[Shahal] This will happen according to the schedule decided upon when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] carries out its redeployment.

[Raz] In other words, within several months?

[Shahal] It is a matter of months, or perhaps even weeks. My own assessment is that the moment agreement is reached, the desire to reach implementation will be anchored in a relatively tight schedule.

[Raz] Minister Shim'on Shetrit, one of the hawks in the government, sees a good chance of implementing this agreement. However, since new formulations have been added to the text, he personally has reservations about whether to support it or not.

[Shetrit] We were opposed to the mentioning of Jerusalem in the document of 30 June. This is the kind of thing that constitutes a retreat from our previous decision that Jerusalem is outside of any discussion. There are additional points of this kind. Therefore, I think that the matter should be examined in its entirety.

[Raz] Do you support the concept of Gaza-Jericho First?

[Shetrit] As long as Gaza-Jericho First is clearly defined as the implementation of autonomy in the sense of self-government and self-administration and nothing else. But not if one side sees it as an independent state and the other side views it as autonomy. As long as it is strictly defined as autonomy, I think it is the realization of those understandings that we have already proposed.

[Raz] During the cabinet session, Prime Minister Rabin spoke, perhaps for the first time, about the fact that the leadership in the territories had proved incapable of delivering the goods. This is the kind of remark that greatly pleases Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am.

[Bar'am] In order to talk with the Palestinians one must go through Tunis, and that means the PLO. It is true that the government has yet to officially recognize the PLO, but the fact that the negotiations were conducted with PLO people, and the fact that the decision was reached in Tunis, clearly proves where the center of authority is. In my opinion, this is not only the center of authority, but the center of the Palestinian ability to make concessions to Israel is there.

[Raz] And indeed, it became apparent today that the first tentative steps toward mutual recognition between the

PLO and Israel have been made. The PLO will wash its hands of terrorist activity and will not object to Israel's continued war against terrorism. Those clauses in the Palestinian Covenant that are anathema to Israel will also be struck off. Tomorrow evening, the cabinet will hold another session to approve the document of principles, or in other words, to approve the autonomy plan that will be signed, perhaps already this week, in Washington. [end recording]

Shahal: Talks in 'Right Direction'

TA2808094193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Moshe Shahal, minister of police, by 'Adi Talmor on 28 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Talmor] Good morning, Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning to you and to our listeners.

[Talmor] Did Shim'on Peres let you in on his trip to Santa Barbara to meet the U.S. secretary of state?

[Shahal] No, I do not think he has to share everything with the cabinet ministers. First and foremost, I wish him a good journey and fruitful talks.

[Talmor] Did he let you in on his meeting with Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] in Scandinavia?

[Shahal] I will not confirm the meeting, but I do not think it should be seen as an extraordinary event. As a matter of fact, it has been over two years since indirect negotiations have been held in the open with the PLO via Tunis. These negotiations began in the Madrid talks and were pursued overtly by the Palestinian delegation which coordinated its positions and received guidance from Tunis. Moreover, in the territories, in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, the Palestinian delegation is nicknamed the Tunis clerks which, as they put it, conduct a policy of fax messages. If such meetings bring positive results and promote the negotiations, they should be regarded as a natural development in this type of negotiation.

[Talmor] Nevertheless, Mr. Shahal, this was a meeting on a very high and unprecedented level between a senior member of the Israeli Government and a senior member of the PLO-Tunis.

[Shahal] Once again, I would not like my remarks to be construed as confirming or referring to that meeting.

[Talmor] But you are not denying it.

[Shahal] Common sense would have it that negotiations cannot possibly be conducted with the inhabitants of the territories who cannot sign or make any decision without the approval of the Palestinian leadership outside the territories. Furthermore, an interim arrangement cannot possibly be detached from the outline of the subsequent permanent arrangement.

[Talmor] So, you are simply telling us that you are in favor of direct negotiations with the PLO leadership in Tunis.

[Shahal] I am in favor of negotiations with any Palestinian who is prepared to recognize the right of Israel to exist, engages in negotiations with us while renouncing and taking action against terror, and is prepared to reach an arrangement with Israel that in the context of the permanent arrangement he will have no additional demands, such as the right of return. These are the issues we should bear in mind.

[Talmor] So what happens now, Mr. Shahal? In the wake of the agreement reached by Peres and Abu-Mazin in Scandinavia, what is the timetable for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho?

[Shahal] The redeployment of IDF troops will be the last act after all the other arrangements are enforced. We are now in the process of discussing the details, which are not simple or easily solvable. We must see to the security and subsistence of the Israeli citizens in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We must ensure our presence in the locations that will be stipulated. We must determine the extent of and how to attain coordination between the future Palestinian civilian bodies and the Israeli authorities.

The idea of Gaza-Jericho First is meant to give the feeling that this proposed interim solution will apply both to Gaza and to Judaea and Samaria, and not just to Gaza. Hence, I assume it will be a simultaneous or consecutive timetable, although it does not yet exist as such. There is no consolidated plan yet, but I believe one will be discussed in the next few days. However, if we were to speculate about a timetable, I think it will move at a much faster pace once we are rid of the procedural snags, the obstinate positions, and the fact that the Palestinian delegation is not empowered to make any decisions without the approval of Tunis. I believe the timetable will move fast due to reasons having to do with the Palestinian side, which is very interested in a solution because of financial and organizational problems. I believe it could be a matter of months and not years, as was the case with the Camp David accords.

[Talmor] So you in Jerusalem are now simply waiting for the official decision of the PLO in Tunis?

[Shahal] We are waiting for the outcome of the upcoming round of talks. The preparations being made today are meant to ensure that this round is a substantive one. Incidentally, this had been the assessment of some of us. I believed a breakthrough would occur either in this or the next round of talks. In my opinion, this will immediately be followed by a breakthrough with Syria. The Palestinian issue will be the catalyst that will speed up more concrete answers from the Syrians.

We are witnessing far-reaching political changes. In my opinion, Israel must define its strategic objectives. This is a period of arduous trials and quite tough decisions for everyone, given the divided stands on the issue.

Although I consider myself one of those who favors a political arrangement and solution, this does not mean that the decisions will be easy. We will have to pray and have faith in the path we are treading. I think we are moving in the right direction, but it calls for a great deal of caution and wisdom in the way we handle the negotiations and implement the agreements we attain. [passage omitted]

Ben-Eli'ezer on Direct Talks

TA2908124593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1205 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Israel Television's political correspondent Gadi Sukenik outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 29 August—recorded "a short while ago"]

[Text] [Ben-Eli'ezer] It is clear to us today that all the hopes we pinned on the local leadership did not lead to very much. Therefore, the government was wise to reserve itself the right to launch secret contacts in parallel, so as to examine the capability of this or that body to get both parties to sit down together in order to extricate themselves from the current situation.

[Sukenik] Are we actually talking about the PLO and Israel recognizing each other?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I do not think it would be wise to get into details right now. I cannot say that the contacts were held with ardent Zionists. Clearly, we are talking about elements which identify themselves with the PLO. However, in my opinion, we have been holding contacts with the PLO for many years, and anyone who thinks that Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is less PLO than Yasir 'Arafat does not understand anything.

[Sukenik] What about formal recognition?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] It is still too early for me to give any details before the issue is brought before the cabinet.

Beilin on 'Gaza-Jericho First'

TA2808193693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Studio interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Are we really on the verge of what may perhaps be a historic breakthrough with the Palestinians in just a matter of days?

[Beilin] Look, one can only identify a historic breakthrough with the benefit of hindsight. It is very difficult to predict a historic breakthrough in advance. However, I believe that the developments which took place in between the 10th and 11th rounds, or, in other words, Secretary of State Christopher's shuttle mission, the surge of Islamic extremism in the Arab world, and the crisis in the Palestinian camp, created a new situation in the Middle East prior to the upcoming round of talks. All these developments may now be taken together with the U.S. document of principles that the Palestinians rejected in the previous round, and if we can add the idea of implementing autonomy first in the Gaza Strip and perhaps in Jericho, then we may now be able to reach an agreement on principles, which will start the negotiations.

[Sukenik] Then some things have changed between the 10th and 11th round of talks due to begin next Monday [30 August] or Tuesday. Did the almost official recognition of the PLO leadership in Tunis by the Israeli Government, the prime minister, and the foreign minister constitute the main reason for the PLO's approval of the deal, assuming, of course, that agreement and understandings have indeed been reached?

[Beilin] I do not know of any such recognition. There is no such recognition. This government, as opposed to its predecessor, did not address the PLO issue and did not rule out such a possibility in principle. If you ask me, I think the position expressed years ago [1974] with the Yariv-Shemtov formula, which stipulated that if the PLO ceased its involvement in terrorism and declared that it was opposed to such methods, recognized Israel's right to exist, and amended the Palestinian Covenant, then Israel would have no reason to continue to object to negotiations with that organization. Since those steps have not been taken yet, Israel is not conducting any official or formal negotiations with the PLO. These are simply people who receive their orders from Tunis.

[Sukenik] Could one say that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has tied up everything in the course of his direct and indirect contacts with the PLO leadership over the past few weeks and days? Have you received the impression that matters have been more or less finalized with the PLO leadership?

[Beilin] I think that there were was a great deal of exaggeration and inaccuracies reported in the media. Various denials have been issued, while some things, although never denied, simply never happened. Therefore, I refuse to comment on any contacts or talks in the past. What I can say is that between the 10th and 11th rounds, there were informal meetings with Palestinians in which certain ideas were floated. These ideas mainly related to the Gaza-Jericho First concept. It can now be said that although both parties are still not in complete agreement, there is a great deal of understanding regarding our future steps, and if the implementation of autonomy can be brought forward—and I am not talking about a Palestinian state, nor sovereignty, nor any of the things claimed by the Likud, which is already whipping up hysteria around the issue—then I think that during the 11th round of talks we may be able to effect a change that has not taken place in the previous two years.

[Sukenik] Thank you, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin.

Beilin Comments Further

TA2908060093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Dick Winter—live]

[Text] [Winter] Mr. Beilin, the Gaza-Jericho First plan has been discussed for weeks, even months, and yet the mechanics of the plan are still unclear. What is Israel offering the Palestinians?

[Beilin] Well, generally speaking, the idea of Gaza and Jericho was raised as a result of the problems and the obstacles that we found on the way to a declaration of principles in the last months. The idea is to begin the autonomy in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho in order to begin some development, some positive development that will be conducive to signing an autonomy agreement later on. So what they are speaking about is actually early autonomy in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho, so that we will be able to resume the negotiations later on and to enlarge the autonomy over other areas too.

[Winter] But once the stage of autonomy begins throughout the territories, how will Gaza and Jericho differ in status from the rest of the territories?

[Beilin] Well, generally speaking again, they will have the authorities which will be given eventually to other areas in the West Bank. So that speaking about their own internal issues, like education, health, welfare, tourism and so forth—these will be handled by them without interference of Israel, while the security matters will be handled by Israel.

[Winter] Dr. Beilin, what happened at the Peres-Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] meeting in Scandinavia that did not happen at peace talks in the last year and a half?

[Beilin] Well, there was not such a meeting. But nevertheless speaking about the informal meetings between Israelis and Palestinians in the last months, we understood that there were many problems on their side, and many suspicions on their side too. We prefer to have an early autonomy in Gaza; they were suspicious about it, because they were afraid that Gaza First might be Gaza last too, and that's why they wanted to have the autonomy in Jericho too. Eventually we did not find the reason why not to do that, although there will be some problems I presume, because Jericho is not a separated area, and eventually we believe that the joint idea of Jericho and Gaza will become a reality and will open the way for the continuation and the resumption of the talks.

[Winter] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, thank you very much.

Beilin: PLO Must Renounce Terrorism

TA3008072093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Excerpts] According to the document formulated by Israel and the Palestinians, autonomy or self-government will be implemented in Gaza and Jericho. The Palestinians will also be responsible for various fields—excluding domestic security—in other parts of the territories. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik is here with the details of the documents:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] Right now, the cabinet ministers are learning the details of the agreement with the Palestinians for the first time. According to the agreement, both sides commit themselves to resolve the conflict through peaceful means. In the first stage, autonomy will be implemented in Gaza and Jericho, with the Palestinian residents in other parts of the territories being given powers in the fields of health, education, tourism, labor affairs, and culture. The future of Jerusalem and the Jewish settlements will only be discussed as part of the permanent arrangement. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will pull out of the areas turned over to the self-government authorities in the Palestinian population centers, and will redeploy—that is the term employed—in agreed-upon locations.

The Israeli Government will remain responsible for security, foreign affairs, Jewish settlements, and Israeli citizens in the areas where autonomy has been applied. The IDF will retain control of the border terminals on the Jordan River. The Palestinian police will not be authorized to arrest Israeli citizens.

The negotiations over this document have already been completed, and will now be submitted to the cabinet for approval before it is signed by the respective delegations in Washington. Several cabinet ministers assessed that the agreement would already be signed during the first week of talks. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin stressed that this agreement was a basis for negotiations.

[Beilin] What is supposed to be agreed upon in Washington between the Palestinians and Israelis is actually the agenda for the negotiations which shall begin later.

[Semrik] Why has Israel not made implementing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement conditional to ending terrorist attacks and stopping the intifadah?

[Beilin] The demand to halt terrorist attacks is not featured in any proposal or draft for an agreement on principles. Nor did it appear in the various U.S. proposals. I think that a formal declaration to halt terrorist attacks could only be attained if we were to hold direct contacts with the PLO itself. As long as we are talking to a Palestinian delegation, it cannot declare a halt to terrorist attacks, or commit itself to such a statement. We have still not reached that stage. [passage omitted]

[Semrik] As for the question of recognizing the PLO, the ministers assessed that the PLO would not be publicly

and officially recognized in the near future. The deputy foreign minister told us that a majority of the cabinet supported formal recognition of the organization.

[Beilin] I think the question is whether the PLO is now ready to reach a far-reaching decision such as amending its covenant and halting terrorism. If this happens, I believe that many Israeli cabinet ministers would support mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Opposition Criticizes Official PLO Contacts

Shamir: Policy Poses 'Gravest Dangers'

TA2708190393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The former prime minister, Knesset Member Yitzhaq Shamir, today warned that the Labor government was leading Israel towards one of the gravest dangers in its history. Shamir said that before signing any peace agreement, the government must hold new elections. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-David] The former prime minister had come to express support for the Likud candidate in the Rishon Leziyyon municipal elections. However, Shamir also addressed the larger political issues, saying they served as good cause for concern for every citizen. The Rabin government was trying to strip Israel of all its assets, Shamir asserted. One morning we will wake up in a small country, without having been forced by anyone to withdraw from the territories of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Shamir] One asks oneself: Since nothing has changed in the world, then apparently only one thing has happened. Someone came in the middle of the night and stole our minds.

[Ben-David] The frightening news was accumulating on an almost daily basis, Shamir said. The government was trying to reach an agreement as quickly as possible and to sell out everything. We are already on the verge of withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

[Shamir] If someone wishes to reach a decision on such things, on changing the country's borders or anything in that vein, he must put the case before the people and say: This is what I propose, let me hear your opinion. [end recording]

Labor's Dayan Rejects Shamir Attacks

TA2708191193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The head of the Labor faction in the Knesset, Eli Dayan, has called on Israel's political right to cease its attacks on the government. Dayan said the people of Israel were yearning for peace and wanted nothing more than to rid itself of the burden of what he called the hornet's nest called the Gaza Strip.

Today, both former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the head of the Tzomet party, Refa'el Eytan, blasted the Rabin government for reportedly agreeing to the proposal known as Gaza and Jericho First, which would reportedly establish Palestinian autonomy immediately in those areas.

Shamir was especially bitter in his attack, saying that Prime Minister had no right, in Shamir's words, to sell integral and vital parts of the nation of Israel, and that elections must be called before any territorial compromises are reached.

Although Foreign Minister Peres has hinted that the Gaza and Jericho First proposal might be acceptable to Israel, Prime Minister Rabin has remained silent on the subject.

Netanyahu Rejects Deal

TA2908073293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Dan] Good morning, Mr. Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Dan] Tourism Minister Bar'am said that new elections in Israel will be feasible only after an agreement on Gaza and Jericho First is formulated. Do you accept this proposal?

[Netanyahu] They are doing more than formulating an agreement. They are doing something which astonishes not only a large segment of the Israeli public, but also much of the American public—with whom I am at the present time conversant via Jewish and non-Jewish leaders. What they are doing is trying to take an organization which is in stages of disintegration and dissolution and save it. This is an organization which is completely devoted to annihilating us. Now they are shaking the dust off this organization, raising U.S. funds for it, and furthering its cause. Worst of all, now they are putting this organization on the map.

[Dan] Maybe they are doing this because they know what the alternative is.

[Netanyahu] They are not only putting it on the political map, they are also putting it on Israel's map. Now they are not merely proposing that this take place in Gaza, but also in Jerusalem—or to be more precise, 15-20 km from Jerusalem, a 15-minute drive. This is where 'Arafat's headquarters will be established. As we heard over the reports, his aides are already searching for a house for him. 'Arafat has already clarified that this will be a bridgehead toward a Palestinian state, which will spread out from there. We are not speaking here of an alternative between this situation and a war. This situation in itself constitutes a preparation for the war. There is no relation between this situation and peace. This, in fact,

constitutes a total abandonment of our security. Rabin is breaking all his promises to the voters not to speak with 'Arafat and not to establish a Palestinian state. This situation constitutes a violation of promises and of Israel's security, and calls for immediate elections.

[Dan] Mr. Netanyahu, let me reiterate my question: The prime minister and the government know what the alternative to the PLO is—namely, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. I assume that you, too, are not interested in this organization.

[Netanyahu] The alternative to the PLO is not Hamas, because it is a big mistake to think that there is a real difference between them. There is no real difference between these two organizations. Both of them want to rule the territories. As 'Arafat's close aide Rafiq al-Natshah has explained, both organizations have the same aim, the only difference being in the method of implementation. The aim is to reach the sea, not merely the Green Line. We must understand that once we evacuate the territory there will be a process of Islamization and a coalition between 'Arafat and Hamas, notwithstanding all the battles and arguments between them. We will not have a new Hong Kong near Tel Aviv —that is, in Gaza. We will rather have a new Tehran near Tel Aviv. Once we evacuate the territory, we no longer control it. We can only be sure of one thing, that the Arabs who want to destroy us will rule there. They will actually be in control of points which are very close both to the coastal plain and Jerusalem. They will actually surround us and threaten our security and our very existence.

[Dan] Thank you very much, Mr. Netanyahu.

Likud Assails Government

TA2908131993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction sharply attacked the government's intention to recognize the PLO. The faction claimed that this was a dramatic, dangerous and most serious development. The Likud faction asserted that the government was acting without authority and endangering the continued existence of the State of Israel.

Likud Submits No-Confidence Motion

TA2808104593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction has submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government over the plan to implement autonomy in Gaza and Jericho first. The Likud says this plan spells the establishment of a Palestinian terror state.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the motion will be discussed next Monday [30 August] at an extraordinary session called during the Knesset's summer recess, and that because of the recess a long time may pass between the debate and the vote.

Vote Delayed Due to Recess

TA3008052093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Knesset plenum will not take up the Likud bid to express no- confidence in the government today. Cabinet Minister Ramon has informed the Knesset Secretariat that the government will not submit a bill to the house today and therefore, under the Knesset rules, a no-confidence vote cannot be held during the recess.

Vote To Be Held After Plan Debate

TA3008105593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Knesset House Committee decided this morning—with the agreement of both coalition and opposition members—that if the government presented the agreement with the Palestinians to the Knesset next week, the results of the vote concluding the debate would be regarded as a vote of confidence in the government. This, at the initiative of the opposition factions.

Our correspondent notes that all of the coalition's spokesmen have agreed that the government must receive the Knesset's vote of confidence on such a historic agreement.

Knesset Chairman Shevah Weiss and Knesset Member Hagay Merom, the chairman of the Knesset's House Committee, told our correspondent that they would find the appropriate clause in the regulations to permit the Knesset to hold a vote of no-confidence during its recess.

Coalition MK's Assert Majority of Public Backs Withdrawal

TA2808162993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Knesset members [MK's] from the coalition said that the Gaza and Jericho First plan not require the government to call new elections. Labor MK Efrayim Sne said that the plan does not deviate from the Camp David accords, while MK Ran Kohen, the chairman of the Meretz Knesset faction, said that the government enjoyed the support of the Knesset and a solid majority of the public for withdrawal from the territories in the framework of a peace agreement.

Rabbis Warn Autonomy Steps Could Lead to War

TA2908103893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The committee of rabbis in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has warned that the government's new proposal for Palestinian autonomy could lead to war. A spokesman for the committee, Rabbi Eli'ezer Melamed, said that a

war between Israelis was liable to ensue from what he called the crazy and dangerous steps being taken by the government.

Public Reaction to Agreement Reported

TA2908201993

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 29 August reports that "the Council of Jewish Settlements in the administered territories decided, at an emergency meeting this afternoon, to roundly condemn the Gaza-Jericho First plan. The meeting, which was also attended by right-wing Knesset members, decided to step up a protest against the government by the settlers. The idea of an agreement on this basis was described as treason."

Also, "more than 175 Palestinian from Nabulus were tonight hosted in 20 Jewish homes in Jerusalem. They then, along with their Jewish hosts, marched in unity in the Talpiyyot area, to demonstrate their support for Israeli-Palestinian peace."

Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 29 August, in a report by Menashe Raz, adds that "satisfaction was expressed by the Palestinians in the territories with the agreement emerging regarding Gaza and Jericho First." "'Arafat's political kitchen buries the Palestinian problem—this statement was signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The 10 rejectionist organizations describe the Gaza-Jericho First plan as a free concession to the Zionist enemy. The deportees too protest the plan; they are quoted as saying that this plan means giving up Palestine and its capital, Jerusalem.

"Still, it is doubtful whether these leaflets faithfully reflect public opinion on the Palestinian street, especially in Jericho." The television reporter adds though that "the person who finds himself between the devil and the deep blue sea is the Jericho mayor who was appointed by the civil administration to serve his townfolk, on the one hand, while on the other, he represents Jordanian interests, and there is bewilderment in Jordan now. The Jordanian royal court expects a confederation with the territories, according to the Madrid formula, rather than the presently proposed plan which seems to have removed Jordan from the picture."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 29 August reports that "HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] has called on the government to begin direct talks with the PLO at once." The announcement states that HADASH "is following with satisfaction the Israel-PLO contacts, and that a withdrawal from all territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel is the only way to establish a just peace in the region."

Egyptian Envoy Welcomes Progress on Palestinian Track

TA3008072393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, believes that the emerging agreement with the Palestinians is a good step in the right direction. He assessed that it would be possible for Israel and the Palestinians to formulate a joint statement of principles during this round of peace talks.

As for the criticism leveled against the agreement throughout the Arab world, Basyuni said that the majority's will must be taken into account, and the majority of the residents of the territories support this agreement.

The Egyptian ambassador welcomed the progress made on the Palestinian track but stressed that the goal of the negotiations was a comprehensive peace between all the parties. Basyuni asserted that the formula for peace with Syria was full peace in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Rabin Urged To Show More Leadership in Peace Process

TA2908155093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Aug 93 p 9

[Commentary by Daniyel Ben-Simon: "Diplomacy in an Embryonic State"]

[Excerpts] The "Gaza-Jericho First" plan signifies Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' victory over Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Ever since the establishment of the government, the commentators and pundits have not tired of regaling their readers with descriptions of Rabin's vigor as opposed to Peres' passivity. During the past year, there has been the growing impression that this is all Yitzhaq Rabin's one-man show. He appointed the cabinet ministers as he saw fit, he formulated its modus operandi, he set the perimeters of the dialogue with the Arab partners, he decided on the deportations, he invented the closure on the territories, and it was none other than Yitzhaq Rabin who lit up the Lebanese sky with tens of thousands of artillery shells and bombs in his war against Hizballah.

So far, everything is true. Shim'on Peres found himself swept along in the wake of events or forced to support them after the fact. While Rabin spread his activities across the entire spectrum, from the peace talks to the construction of roads in central Israel, Peres busied himself with one thing alone: promoting the peace talks with the Palestinians. He made finding an arrangement on mutual coexistence with them his supreme goal. He, therefore, concentrated on searching for ways to untangle the mess of verbosity the Washington peace talks had bogged down in, under the leadership of that babbler par excellence, jurist Elyaqim Rubinstein.

Some time ago, Shim'on Peres reached two conclusions: The first one is that the concept of the interim accord is losing its charm. During a cabinet session some months ago, he proposed that Israel should tie the interim accord to the permanent settlement in order to give the Palestinians a solid basis to stand on in the future. Prime Minister Rabin rejected the idea, claiming that it contravened the Madrid formula. "If the Palestinians insist on discussing the permanent arrangement, we will reach no agreement," Rabin said at that same meeting.

The second conclusion was that Israel had to close a deal with the PLO if it wished to promote an arrangement in the territories. For years, Peres was a party to the demonization of the PLO carried out by Israel's leaders. Now he has changed his mind. The leaders in the territories are pleasant interlocutors, but the source of authority has always been, and still remains, in Tunis.

The "Gaza-Jericho First" plan has helped Peres kill two birds with one stone. He has closed this deal with the PLO and introduced elements of the permanent arrangement into it. If this plan is implemented it may serve as a model for the permanent arrangement in the other areas in the territories.

While Peres has assumed the most active role in the political field, the prime minister is giving the impression of a two-bit player. Rabin has reached the same conclusions as his foreign minister, but instead of seizing the bull by the horns, he prefers to receive briefings after the fact. That is, what he did when he gave Minister Yosi Sarid the green light to meet Nabil Sha'th and that is how he acted with regard to Peres' meeting with Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. In both instances, he knew of the meetings in advance, and was briefed about them after the fact. He did not always receive full reports.

If Rabin reached the conclusion that Israel had to talk to the PLO in order to get the peace wagon rolling, why did he need these messengers? Why did he not seize the initiative himself? Why complicate things and create the impression among the public that he was being dragged into a transgression? This approach gives rise to serious speculation with regard to Rabin's control over what is happening on the Palestinian-Israeli track? [passage omitted]

Rabin is still the man who calls the shots, but Peres and his associates have taken over the peacemaking process and now exercise complete control. If the prime minister believes that their approach will lead to an accord with the Palestinians, he must show a greater degree of leadership, and fast. Time is not on his side.

Peres Contacts With PLO 'Significant Step'

TA2708143893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Aug 93 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Meeting That Was"]

[Text] Something happened last week in Israel's relations with the PLO. Despite Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' firm denials of a meeting with a PLO official in Scandinavia, such a meeting did take place. Shim'on Schiffer's scoop in YEDI'OT AHARONOT about the meeting was correct, although it took place in Norway rather than in Stockholm. His interlocutor apparently was Abu-Mazin [Muhammad 'Abbas], the PLO's No. 2 man. Contrary to Peres' previous denial of a meeting with a PLO official during his visit in Cairo (on that occasion he met an official of an Arab country in the Persian Gulf), this one sounded forced, bringing to mind denials issued by a finance minister on the eve of a devaluation. Numerous details will soon come to light. Too many parties are interested in breaking the secrecy.

The prime minister knew about the meeting. Such an important meeting could not conceivably have taken place without Rabin knowing about it in advance. Although in the past Peres' associates had contacts with Egypt and the PLO, of which Rabin learned after the fact (and perhaps not everything), it is inconceivable that such a high-level meeting would be held without prior coordination with the prime minister. That is why it should be seen as a significant step. The difference between Peres' meeting and the one Yosi Sarid and Dedi Zucker held with Nabil Sha'th is that Minister Sarid represents a party which has long advocated contacts with the PLO. In contrast, Peres is the second-ranking man in the government and in Labor, whose party platform espouses nonrecognition of and non- negotiating with the PLO.

The meeting took place late at night and ended after midnight of last Friday, 20 August. It was prepared meticulously, but despite the shroud of secrecy, reports about it were leaked by the Palestinian side last week. Peres was accompanied by Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry. The latter did a good job compiling the topics for discussion. The idea was to reach a general agreement about the future of the negotiations. The topics included early empowerment in the territories, the notion of Gaza First, Western aid, and the declaration of principles.

I have long believed there is no chance of attaining an agreement with the Palestinians without the PLO—this would at most be a partial and temporary agreement—or dealing with the refugees, a source of conflict. Nevertheless, the way by which we came to these controversial contacts with the PLO would seem to have been flawed in many respects. Once again, we must talk to the PLO. However, the question is when, what to discuss at this point, and what the conditions are for its direct integration in the negotiations. The timing is linked to the interim arrangement: Should the PLO be integrated in the negotiations without committing itself not to raise at this point "explosive" issues such as Jerusalem, the right of return, and a Palestinian state? After all, given its current difficulties the PLO would be willing to pay more for its direct participation in the talks.

One gets the impression that the contacts with the PLO were not handled properly from the outset. Initially, Rabin was presented with piecemeal faits accomplis. Then he was dragged into it, ultimately giving his consent but without any thorough preparation. The Americans are a case in point. Washington was embarrassed and could not understand what was happening here. They had long heard from their own channels about the quiet contacts held by Peres' associates and others, but it was not clear to them where Rabin stood on the issue and how much was being done with his approval. The Americans accepted Israel's position that an interim stage is necessary, and that consequently the Palestinians should not be allowed to raise the issue of a permanent arrangement at this point. That is why they have been dragging their feet on the Gaza First proposal. Improper coordination with the Americans might get back to us in the next stages. A few days after Peres' meeting in Norway, the Palestinians presumably approached the Americans with the story about the meeting. They probably told the Americans that the Israeli partner was already engaged in a direct dialogue with them. So, why must Washington lag behind?

Yet another question comes to mind: Did we give any thought to the effect the direct contacts with the PLO might have on Jordan and its status in the talks? And, what is more important: Will the direct contacts with the PLO weaken the local Palestinian delegation which we would like to see growing stronger? Would it not have been better to insist that Faysal al-Husayni, whose inclusion in the delegation had been coordinated with Israel, attend the meetings with the PLO leaders?

There is a great deal of evidence that the prime minister lost control of the contacts with the PLO in the early stages. He allowed one minister to confer with Nabil Sha'th, another with Faysal al-Husayni, and a third to meet Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, but neither knew about the other. At the same time, Peres' associates (including Nimrod Novik, currently a private citizen) were involved in other meetings, mostly coordinated with the Egyptians. Instead of making the handling, formalization, and control of the secret contacts exclusive to Peres and himself, Rabin was incrementally dragged into a process with the PLO through the use of improper tactics which could adversely effect the negotiations. Hopefully, Rabin is not losing control of the negotiations with the Palestinians.

Court Rejects Rabin Request To Delay Der'i Hearing

TA3008075893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The High Court of Justice has rejected the request submitted by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Attorney General Yosef Harish to postpone by several days the hearing of the appeal to suspend Interior Minister Arye Der'i. The five judges have now begun hearing the appeal.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that in the request to postpone the hearing, State Attorney Dorit Beinisch explained that Attorney General Harish had thought originally that he could present both positions, while placing a greater emphasis on his own position. But the attorney general now believes that Mr. Rabin's representation can be reconsidered. The attorney general was therefore asking for a stay of proceedings for several days. The High Court of Justice, however, rejected the request and started hearing the appeal.

Concussion Grenade Thrown at Der'i Residence

TA3008050093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] A concussion grenade, designed to stun and not injure, was thrown last night at the house of Interior Minister Arye Der'i in the Har Nof neighborhood of Jerusalem. No one was hurt. An anonymous phone caller told Qol Yisra'el the grenade was thrown by a group calling itself the Organization for the Suppression of Traitors. The caller said the group was aligned with the Kakh movement. Kakh leader No'am Federman denied any connection with the group.

Soldier Shoots Gazan at 'Point Blank' Range

NC2708183393 Paris AFP in English 1804 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Aug 27 (AFP)—An Israeli soldier shot and killed a Palestinian at point blank range in the al-Nusayrat refugee camp Friday [27 August], Palestinian sources said.

The soldier was trying to force Nihad 'Ayyash Rajab, 19, to climb into a jeep after hitting him, witnesses said. He shot the Palestinian in the stomach at point blank range, the sources said.

Rajab was taken to hospital in Tel Aviv, where he died, according to the Palestinian sources.

If confirmed, he would be the 1,112th Palestinian killed by Israeli security forces or settlers since the start of the intifadah, or uprising, in December 1987.

In another incident, another resident of al-Nusayrat, Walid Tabazah, 26, was beaten to death by members of a Palestinian vigilante group who accused him of "indecent" sexual behavior, according to Palestinian sources.

The attack was claimed by the armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Two 'Collaborators' Killed; 8 Fugitives Captured

TA2908125393 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Aug 93 p 13

[Report by Goga Kogan]

[Excerpts] The security forces have recently captured eight wanted men who are suspected of terrorist activities against the security forces and local residents believed to have collaborated with Israel.

A Border Police unit captured four armed fugitives from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine within 24 hours. Two of these are major suspects. In one case, the captured fugitive was carrying a list of prospective Palestinian assassination targets. [passage omitted]

Two Palestinians were murdered in the Gaza Strip over the weekend because of alleged collaboration with Israel. An unidentified woman from Gaza's al-Rumayl neighborhood was knifed to death, and a 26-year-old resident of al-Nusayrat was killed with an ax.

The curfew in the Rafah refugee camp has gone into its third day. It was imposed after a grenade was hurled at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] detail, injuring a soldier. Three residents were slightly injured in disturbances at the camp.

Hamas Activity in Gaza Strip Said Increasing

TA2908173893 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Aug 93 pp 40, 41

[Article by Sulayman al-Shafa'i: "Managing Without the Deportees"]

[Excerpts] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories will not wait for the 195 deportees who will return from southern Lebanon on 9 September. The buses that they will board on the northern border will reach the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lockup facilities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and only after interrogation and classification will it be determined who will be released and who will remain in detention. Beyond that, Gaza Strip activists say, the deportation has hardly hurt the movement's infrastructure. Most of the 415 deportees, they add, were officials who headed educational and social institutes, and therefore, their return will have only a morale impact on the Palestinian street, nothing more. [passage omitted]

Those who will wait, and apprehensively so, for the return of the deportees are the PLO people, especially against the background of the crisis in the organization. "The deportation only increased Hamas' power among the Palestinians; many felt solidarity with the movement," says Attorney Furayh Abu-Middyan, a member of the Palestinian delegation and a Fatah member who is close to Yasir 'Arafat. "The financial and political crisis in the PLO leadership will only further strenghthen the rejectionist forces, led by Hamas, and will cause grave damage to the peace process.

"Those who support a continuation of the political and economic pressure exerted on us will be shortly surprised to see undesirable results. We may lose all our institutions and supporters in the territories. People who we have cultivated for 20 years will have to cease their activity due to economic difficulties. The road to joining extreme organizations who continue to funnel funds in the meantime, will then be open."

Hamas is well-established in the Gaza Strip, indeed. Four major Islamic organizations are active in the area by law. The largest is the Islamic Society, whose leader, Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Bakr, and deputies Muhammad Sulayman al-Barrud and Hamad al-Hasanat, were among those deported to Lebanon. The Islamic Union, Islamic Majama', is now headed by Dr. Ibrahim al-Yazuri, after its leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the Hamas founder, was convicted to 15 year imprisonment. Another body is the Islamic Kashruth Society, al-Salah al-Islami, led by Ahmad al-Kurd. The duty of the last organization, the Islamic young women's society, al-Shabbat al-Islamiyah, is to train young women in disseminating the principles of Islam among the Gaza Strip's women.

The societies mentioned above act through numerous branches and centers. Their members provide services to the population in almost all walks of life: distribution of food to the needy; the establishment and management of kindergartens; the construction and maintenance of mosques; educational and health services; the adoption of orphans; taking care of families of collaborators who were murdered by masked people; paying remuneration to residents who lost their property and houses in Israeli security force actions. The services are given free of charge.

Hundreds of residents arrive daily at the head offices of the Islamic Society located in a two-story building near al-Nasir neighborhood west of the town of Gaza. Those who need food or money to supplement their monthly salary go up to the second floor. They give details to the secretaries who work there, and society's social workers make an inquiry and decide whether to approve or reject the requests. The requests are usually accepted. In the next stage the society's field teams go to warehouses and

load a car with the amount of food necessary to last the needy families until the end of the month.

Intensive action takes place among children. Children nine years old and older report at five in the afternoon, daily, for Koran lessons in mosques close to their places of residence. There are also 145 centers for the study of Koran, named katatib, Koran schools, in which about 3,000 students are enrolled.

Still, the greatest success lies in a network of boarding schools set up by the person in charge of Islamic studies, 'Abd-al-Sami' 'Arbid. The children who stay there from Thursday evening until Saturday afternoon engage in activities such as sports and computers, but the main focus is on memorizing the Koran, a system which was customary during Prophet Muhammad's days. They have memorized half of this holy book already, 'Arbid says, and within three years they will be able to quote it completely from memory. [passage omitted]

There is legal activity, too. The first, ground floor of the Islamic Society's building is regularly occupied by 10 members of the reconciliation committee, lajnat al-islah, which deals with the resolution of conflicts among the residents. The committee is headed by Khalid Haniyah who, like his colleagues, is erudite in Koran and Islamic literature. The 10 committee members listen to the sides' arguments, and issue an arbitration ruling. The ruling is based on Koran verses and on Prophet Muhammad's stories. [passage omitted]

The deportations affected activity only temporarily. For instance, 17 of the 100 teachers at the Islamic University in which about 3,000 students study were included in the deportees' list, but action was taken immediately upon the deportation: Temporary lecturers were introduced and lectures proceeded as usual. In the societies which lost their leaders as a result of the deportation it was the senior officials who made the decisions. The funneling of funds, by humanitarian organizations mainly—both local and international ones—was not affected.

It is claimed in Hamas that the movement has doubled its power since the deportation was effected. All residents honored the strike days which the movement declared, and on the 17th of every month, the deportation day, shops close down and all traffic is strike-bound. [passage omitted]

Government Reaction To Gaza-Jericho Option Noted

King To Shorten Southeast Asia Tour

JN2808132493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn has decided to cancel the North Korean and Japanese legs of the tour he is scheduled to make next month in southeast Asia. He will do this to reduce the length of his stay abroad in light of the developments of the peace process and an imminent Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the Gaza-Jericho first option.

A well-informed Jordanian source said that King Husayn kept Thailand, China, and Singapore on his tour. He may also visit Indonesia. The source attributed the amendment of King Husayn's itinerary to his wish to reduce the period of his absence from Amman amid Palestinian and Israeli reports of a secret agreement providing for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, which is adjacent to the King Husayn Bridge on the River Jordan, and separates the Kingdom from the West Bank.

The Jordanian monarch had stated that he was preparing for a tour of southeast Asian nations. The countries were: Thailand, China, North Korea, Japan, and Singapore. However, he has now decided to cancel the Tokyo and Pyongyang legs of the trip.

King Said To Reassure 'Arafat

JN2908172893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a phone call from his brother His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening. They exchanged views on current Arab issues and the peace process in light of recent developments. His Majesty King Husayn assured 'Arafat that Jordan supports independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

'No Change' in Jordanian Stance

JN3008065693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn Sunday received a telephone call from Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and discussed with him the latest developments in the peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The agency said that during the telephone conversation, the King assured Mr. 'Arafat of Jordan's support for "the independent Palestinian will" in making decisions.

The call came after Jordanian officials had expressed dissatisfaction with the Palestinians for the lack of consultation over the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acceptance of the Gaza-Jericho option.

But in commenting on Sunday's contact between the two leaders, Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar told the JORDAN TIMES the King's assurance to Mr. 'Arafat that Jordan would support independent decisions by the Palestinians reaffirms Jordan's stand in support of the struggle for their national rights.

Agence France Presse had earlier quoted an unidentified Jordanian official as saying that Jordan has security concerns about the Gaza-Jericho option and is unhappy with the Palestinians for not consulting Jordan over the Gaza-Jericho option.

Dr. Abu-Nuwwar said, however, that there is no change in the Jordanian position towards the Palestinians and the peace process.

"We will continue to support the Palestinians. We will not negotiate on their behalf and we will not interfere in their internal affairs," Dr. Abu-Nuwwar stressed.

Jordanian officials privately say that Jordan would "have liked to have been consulted over the Palestinian stand on the Gaza-Jericho option so that we would not be surprised by any developments related to it." But no matter what the Palestinians' stand towards consultation with Jordan is, "we will continue to support them and consult with them," Dr. Abu-Nuwwar said.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan said that Jordan had no accurate data on the Gaza and Jericho option and could not therefore comment on it.

"Jordan can comment or take stand on the option only when it is informed of all its details," Petra quoted Mr. al-Hasan as saying.

Minister on Need To 'Study' Plan

JN2908205393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan described the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Beirut as cordial and successful, and said Tuesday's negotiations round in Washington would be very important. Mr. al-Hasan, who returned to Amman last night, said: The Arab parties to the talks were committed to a just and durable peace in the Middle East based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said: Jordan has to know more about the Gaza-Jericho proposal before making any evaluation of it.

The minister told the News At Ten that the Arabs wanted the United States to act as a full partner and an honest broker in the peace talks.

[Begin recording] [Al-Hasan] The role of the United States as a full partner and honest broker in the peace process, the comprehensiveness of the peace process was among the most important issues debated in the conference itself.

[Unidentified reporter] According to some reports Jordan received today that there was a tension in the conference room regarding the Palestinian initiative on the Gaza-Jericho First. [sentence as heard] Can you comment on that?

[Al-Hasan] The issue was not really on the agenda of the conference, but it was discussed at the meeting and outside the meeting also. We, in Jordan, we said-...[changes thought] Our comments on that issue that we need to study and to examine all the details on this proposal or this issue and to know exactly the framework of this issue, so we can give our final and decisive answer about it. [end recording]

'Full Details' Said Needed

JN2908060093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The two-day Beirut coordination meeting of foreign ministers of the Arab countries taking part in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, joined by the Egyptian foreign minister, concluded yesterday. Talal Sat'an al-Wasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, desribed the meeting as amicable, good, and fraternal, with positive results.

In statements to the Jordanian News Agency and Jordan Television upon his return to Amman last night after heading the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, the minister said the ministers agreed to boost coordination and conduct serious and effective coordination in order to strengthen the Arab parties and negotiators during the forthcoming rounds. He said the ministers agreed to participate in the 11th round in the U.S. capital, Washington, on 31 August.

Al-Hasan emphasized that the Arab parties are committed to the peace process and to a comprehensive solution. They stressed the U.S. role as a full partner and honest broker in the peace process.

The minister said he conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Husayn to his excellency, the Lebanese president, who asked him to convey his greetings and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn. A dinner banquet was held by the Lebanese president in honor of the ministers taking part in the meeting.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said he met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on the periphery of the meetings. They discussed a host of bilateral issues in an effort to boost the existing good bilateral relations, of which His Majesty King Husayn and his excellency the Lebanese president take care. He met with the Lebanese prime minister and conveyed to him the greetings of Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. They discussed a host of issues of bilateral concern.

Answering a question on the subject of Gaza-Jericho first during the meeting, he said this was among the subjects that were unofficially raised at the meeting. He said he pointed out that Jordan should be acquainted with full details of this subject and all its dimensions in order to be able to have a clear-cut and serious opinion on it, especially since it affects our country and security.

Answering a question on the results of the next round of peace negotiations al-Hasan said: I think that the next round will be an important one. Several sensitive issues are sure to be discussed during it. He expressed hope that this round will produce real progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track and on all other tracks. [passage omitted]

'Closer' PLO Coordination Wanted

JN3008083493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Aug 93 pp 26, 20

[By Nabil Ghazzawi]

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar has said: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will not negotiate in the name of the Palestinian people, it will not sign any agreement on their behalf, and it will not negotiate the Palestinian question in the name of the Palestinian people. With the progress of the talks, the Palestinian delegation has become independent of the Jordanian delegation. The Palestinian delegation has always received instructions from the PLO. It does not receive information or orders from the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This appeared in the minister's answer to a question from AL-DUSTUR on Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the Gaza-Jericho First plan.

The information minister said: Therefore, the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian delegation to the talks are free to make any decisions they want. All that the Jordanian delegation requested in the past was to coordinate with the Palestinian delegation in every round of talks. Despite the coordination meetings among the sisterly cordon states, closer coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations was expected through the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee and Jordanian-Palestinian channels. And Gaza-Jericho First showed that there was a need for this coordination. However, Jordan will not change its stand on the PLO, on the Palestine question, on the peace process, or on the peace talks. Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian brothers and the Palestinian people, no matter what.

Asked about the call by the Arab League and the Palestinian president for an Arab summit, Dr. Abu-Nuwwar said Jordan welcomes such a call, saying Jordan supports any effort to restore Arab solidarity and close Arab ranks.

The information minister said: We continue efforts to close Arab ranks in order to save the Arab nation from destruction, divisions, and imbalance, caused mainly by its fragmentation. He stressed that the Arab nation will never have any weight in international relations without

restoring Arab dignity and unity. Dr. Abu-Nuwwar said Jordan has always believed in and called for this.

Palestinian 'Exodus' Feared

NC2908103893 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Report by Randa Habib]

[Text] Amman, Aug 29 (AFP)—Jordan fears that an Israeli pull-out from the West Bank town of Jericho as a first step toward Palestinian self-rule could lead to an influx of Palestinians.

A high-ranking official, voicing security concerns for his country, said Amman saw a double risk of a Palestinian exodus in the "Gaza-Jericho first" option proposed by the PLO.

Israel could engineer a transfer of population by deporting to Jericho all Palestinians that it considers as "undesirable," the official told AFP, declining to be named.

Faced with harsh living conditions in Jericho, a town of 15,000 inhabitants, the deportees were likely to cross the nearby Allenby Bridge over the River Jordan, he said.

Israel could then bar these Palestinians from returning to the West Bank as it controls the bridge, he explained.

The official said another factor was that many Palestinians would be tempted to move to Jordan voluntarily in search of better living conditions and work opportunities.

Around 57,000 Palestinians have been stranded in Jordan since 1968 because Israel will not allow them back to the territories it seized in the 1967 Middle East war, he said.

"Unless we close the transit gates between the West Bank and Jordan, we don't know how it would be possible to contain an exodus," he said.

King Husayn informed Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat of Jordan's concerns in talks last Tuesday. He also criticized the PLO for proposing the Jericho option without consulting him first.

'Arafat failed to reassure the king, the Jordanian official said. "Jordan should have been consulted not just informed," he stressed.

"Jordan is favorable to an Israeli pull-out from any part of occupied Arab land. But if it is done without previous coordination and preparation, it could lead to a transfer of Palestinian population," he warned.

King Husayn has shortened an upcoming Asian tour, dropping North Korea and Japan, because of developments in the Middle East peace process, a reliable source said Saturday.

The source said the tour of Thailand, China, Singapore and possibly Indonesia would take place in September rather than late August as expected.

Arab-Israeli peace talks resume Tuesday in Washington, as Israeli and Palestinian sources predict a breakthrough on the Gaza Strip and Jericho as a first step toward Palestinian self-government.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), more than one million Palestinians live in Jordan, or more than a quarter of the country's population.

In heavy fighting in September 1970, the Jordanian army expelled Palestinian guerrillas accused of trying to seize power.

Most Palestinians in the West Bank have Jordanian passports but they lost the nationality in 1988 when Jordan cut off the legal and administrative links it held with the territory since 1950.

Jordanian officials said the PLO's failure to inform or consult Amman on its proposals for Palestinian control of Jericho and the Gaza Strip created a crisis of confidence.

"We don't know what is really happening and this worries us," one official said.

He criticized the PLO for negotiating the option with Israel in secret rather than in coordination with the Arab states in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

'Suspicious Deal' Decried

JN3008092093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Aug 93 p 2

["An Issue and Opinion" column by Salahah al-'Ukur: "Gaza-Jericho First Is a Suspicious Deal That Should Be Resisted"]

[Text] One can only look on in wide-eyed astonishment at the conspiracy to delay talking about Jerusalem and its omission from the agenda of negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

This holy city, so full of Arab and Islamic shrines, with a great human heritage, was chosen by almighty God as the destination of the great Prophet Muhammad's night journey, and is the place from which he ascended into heaven.

How can one accept postponing talks on Jerusalem for so many long years at a time when Israeli settlements are about to swallow it up, after Israel has changed its demography. Efforts are under way to obscure and bury the features of this holy city and its Arab, Islamic, and cultural characteristics.

No one disagrees that the Palestinian leadership has begun to minimize the Palestine question and marginalize Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic rights. This is in

exchange for inflating the size of the PLO and allowing it to sit at the negotiating table with Israel as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is clear that there is a suspicious and dangerous deal between the Palestinian leadership and Israel. This deal is a product of the secret and suspicious meeting between the two sides, held with no coordination with Jordan and the Arab cordon states, except for Egypt.

The Gaza-Jericho First plan, developed in secret meetings between the Palestinian leaders and Israel, is, in practice, a conspiratorial and dangerous deal against the Palestine question, the national rights of the Palestinian people and the rights of Arabs and Muslims to restore Jerusalem and its Arab and Islamic shrines and cultural sites.

Something worse happened while multi-level meetings and talks were under way between Jordan and the PLO. These meetings were part of a coordinating framework designed to foster clear positions based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace, and to define the nature of current and future relations between the two fraternal peoples. Meanwhile, secret, suspicious, and dangerous talks have been under way between the Palestinian leadership and Israel. Thesse talks have avoided the terms of reference, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the Arab constants crystallized and agreed on by the Arab cordon states at scveral meetings.

It is clear that the competition and the race among Palestinian leaders and figures to sit down at the negotiating table with Israel have enabled Rabin's government to grab huge gains for Israel at the expense of the Palestine question, the Palestinian people's rights, and the Arab and Islamic shrines. Otherwise, what is the meaning of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho First? What is the meaning of relinquishing the rest of the occupied West Bank and the holy city and its shrines, foremost of which is the al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and others?

It should be pointed out that at a time when Jordan adheres to Jerusalem and its Arab and Islamic shrines and heritage, when King Husayn's generosity continues to be demonstrated in the restoration of al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, and the reconstruction of Saldin pulpit by his donations of his own money, the Palestinian leadership relinquishes the constants of the Arab position and forges suspicious and dangerous deals with Israel, ignoring Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied West Bank.

Furthermore, the PLO will assume Israel's role in liquidating the intifadah, and may incite a horrible civil war. As for Jordan, this suspicious plan will carry a great threat to its security and stability, especially if Jericho is turned into a Jordan bridge for Gazans who face serious economic, living, and educational problems. This will empty Gaza, and probably Jericho, of its Arab population. Then, the entire Palestinian land will be for Jews, while the Palestinian population will be in Jordan.

To sum up, the Gaza-Jericho First plan is nothing more than a conspiracy against the Palestine issue, the Palestinian people's rights, against Jordan and its security and stability, and against the security and stability of the region.

So, we ask: Where is Jordanian-Palestinian coordination now? Why remain silent about the dangerous trespasses of the Palestinian leadership? It is time for Jordan to be aware of these trespasses, and to be vigilant and alert about them.

Palestinian-Israeli coordination may be far ahead of the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and coordination among the Arab cordon states. Therefore, all political forces and parties and all popular and professional organizations should raise their voices loudly and warn against the results of such a deal, if they are concerned about Jordan's security, stability, sovereignty, and independence.

Al-Tarawinah, Delegation Depart for 11th Round

JN2908141493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The Jordanian delegation to the 11th round of the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks left Amman for Washington this afternoon. The 11th round of the peace talks is scheduled to begin in Washington on Tuesday.

The Jordanian delegation, which is led by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington, includes: Marwan Dudin, Dr. Mundhir Haddaddin, Dr. Muhammad Bani-Hani, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan, Dr. Hani al-Mulqi, Ambassador Dr. 'Awn al- Khasawinah, Major General Tahsin Shurdhum, 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Kurdi, Dr. Musa Burayzat, and official spokesman Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir.

The delegation is accompanied by a group of experts, advisers, and administrative staff.

Islamists Reject Gaza-Jericho First Option

JN2908162493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Action Front [IAF], the political party of the Muslim Brotherhood, in Jordan today categorically rejected the Gaza-Jericho First option. The IAF considers this option a concession on Palestinian territory, relinquishment of Jerusalem, and a disavowal of 'Umar's pledge maintained by the nation throughout the ages. This announcement was made at a news conference held by IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan.

The IAF also rejected the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation proposal, considering it submission to those who reject the idea of an independent Palestinian state.

Brotherhood To Take Part in Elections Through IAF

JN2708111593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Aug 93 pp 1, 20

[By the parliamentary affairs editor]

[Excerpts] The Islamic Movement has put an end to discussion of a subject that has been a topical issue over the past few weeks. The movement has decided to participate in the parliamentary elections, which will take place on 8 November, through the Islamic Action Front [IAF]. After the Muslim Brotherhood decided to participate in the elections through its members who are affiliated with IAF Party, the party last night announced its decision to take part in the elections.

The party's decision was made following a lengthy meeting of its Shura Council with a majority vote of 85 percent of the delegates, which totaled 101 out of 120 members. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Muslim Brotherhood information bureau issued a statement on participation in the parliamentary elections. The statement reads: The Muslim Brotherhood views parliamentary action and participation in parliamentary elections as a means to address the masses, communicate with them, adopt their issues and stands, explain facts, ward off doubts, defend stands, and to present programs and plans with the objective of contributing to the homeland's progress and development. Based on this, although they have strict reservations about the law amending the current Election Law, and despite the fact that this law was issued to reduce the Islamic Movement's representation in the coming parliament, the Muslim Brotherhood, proceeding from its sense of responsibility toward its call, homeland, and citizens, and out of its awareness of the our nation's delicate circumstances, has decided to take part in the coming parliamentary elections through its members who are affiliated with the IAF Party with the objective of unifying and rationalizing Islamic action in the service of the issues of the nation and the homeland. [passage omitted]

Syria's Khaddam on Measures To 'Boost' Leadership

Comments on National Accord, Peace Talks

NC2708200093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Statement by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after meetings with Lebanese President Ilyas al- Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, at B'abda Palace on 27 August—recorded]

[Text] My visit to Beirut today and my meetings with His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri fall within the framework of continuing coordination and consultation. This visit was scheduled during the latest meetings in Damascus. We discussed all issues that concern both countries and ways to strengthen the process of national accord. We also discussed ways to support the Lebanese Government and its establishments to achieve the cherished goals of the Lebanese people, particularly under these circumstances that require firmer national cohesion to confront foreign acts of aggression and to consolidate the internal front and remove the destructive effects of the civil war.

As a result of the discussions of all aspects of current circumstances, we have reached common conclusions that we believe will boost the Lebanese Government and serve Lebanon, Syria, and all Arabs.

[Correspondent] Can we say that the differences within the Lebanese Government have been resolved?

[Khaddam] There are no differences within the Lebanese Government. The government is cohesive and united and acts according to a program approved by the cabinet. The government won confidence on the basis of this program. As the statement released after the Damascus summit noted, we in Syria stand strongly and firmly by the side of the Lebanese legitimate government and all its institutions. We must note with satisfaction the Lebanese Government's achievements. In the past, when Israeli aggression took place against Lebanon, everyone got confused. This time, and despite the fierceness of the aggression, the government proved its high competence and performance, and contained the effects of the aggression. In addition, the government continued to pursue a clear, patriotic, and strong political line. We have not felt that there are any problems among the ruling establishments in Lebanon. If diverse views are proposed at the cabinet meeting, this is natural. The cabinet can discuss any subject, but once it makes a decision it should be binding to all its members. Naturally, it is improper and not in the interest of the country when any official has two views: One inside the establishment and one outside. If anyone has views, he must discuss them within the establishment and when a decision is made an official must comply. If an official does not feel capable of complying with a decision, he should look for another establishment.

[Correspondent] How do you view the cordon states meeting currently being held in Beirut?

[Khaddam] This meeting is one of the good actions taking place as a result of coordination among the cordon states. No doubt, this coordination is in the interest of these countries. We must continue and consolidate this coordination and not leave the Israeli enemy any chance to break through our front.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion on what is being said regarding possible progress in the 11th round of talks in light of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent stand?

[Khaddam] Naturally, Rabin's recent statements have negative indications. They do not show that the Israelis are convinced yet of the need to adhere to the peace march and the bases on which this march was established. At any rate, the round of peace talks will be held in a few days' time. We should not prejudge matters. We must wait for this session and only in light of its results can we evaluate this round as either successful or not.

[Correspondent] To what extent does Israel adhere to the peace conditions proposed by the Arabs during the Madrid peace conference? In your opinion, if the Israelis continue playing this tune, how far are you willing to go in the peace talks?

[Khaddam] There is a peace initiative accepted by the Arab parties. We adhere to this initiative. It is only natural that part of the mechanism of this initiative is negotiations. We will continue the peace talks on the basis of this initiative. However, we shall not do so indefinitely. There are efforts being exerted by the two co-sponsors of the peace conference to push things in a positive direction. We have to wait and see. At any rate, there is an initiative we adhere to. However, when the Israeli side continues not to adhere to this initiative, it must accept the consequences before world public opinion.

[Correspondent] What is the point that signals to you either to go on or withdraw?

[Khaddam] Adherence to the peace initiatives that were presented and on whose basis the Madrid conference convened. These initiatives are based on implementing Resolutions 242 and 338. Therefore, when Israel continues not to adhere to this initiative and consequently to these two resolutions, it is taking a position that continues its older stands, that is, ignoring international legitimacy and working to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

There is a point I would like to highlight here. There is complete understanding between the president on the one hand, and the prime minister and Chamber of Deputies speaker on the other, on all issues of interest to the country. It is worth noting here that one of the reasons for this visit, which was agreed upon in Damascus, is to congratulate the president on his move to the

presidential palace. We hope this move will be a harbinger of goodwill for the president and for Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Have you given specific advice on how to hold the government stand together?

[Khaddam] We are not in a position to give advice. We are brothers. We exchanged viewpoints. Everyone is convinced that solidarity, cooperation, and unity of rank are basic for the interests of Lebanon and the current stage.

Khaddam Said To Restore 'Solidarity'

NC2808084893 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has restored the government solidarity that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri had been denied by his ministers. He also restored to him his powers. Al-Hariri felt reassured after Khaddam's arrival, the climate improved, all the ministers drank a toast of concord and solidarity, the crisis was snuffed out, and the head of the government's powers were restored to him as if nothing had ever happened.

Prime Minister al-Hariri hosted a dinner banquet to honor Khaddam at his residence in Quraytim Palace last night. Several ministers and Chamber of Deputies members were present. A newspaper correspondent asked al-Hariri: Is it over, Prime Minister?

Al-Hariri answered enthusiastically: I created this government; I am its proprietor. The crisis was artificial and has necessarily ended.

The prime minister told AL-DIYAR newspaper: A prime minister cannot persist in a weakened position. I am not of this type. Unless the head of government exercises his powers, the executive branch will turn into several dispersed groups. When a foreign minister meets with a foreign country's envoy, the prime minister has the right to know what is happening. When the electricity minister conducts negotiations, the prime minister must be apprised. The Constitution gives the power to supervise all ministerial work. I will either be a prime minister with full powers or not at all.

Al-Hariri announced that there will be no government reshuffle because it is not necessary, explaining that when the current government performs in a sound manner it will be one of the best governments ever.

The reconciliation dinner hosted 24 ministers and many deputies, notably Chamber of Deputies Deputy Speaker Elie al-Firzili.

Khaddam addressed the guests: Brothers, Prime Minister al-Hariri is not Jesus Christ and cannot remedy all problems in a mere six months.

He emphasized that Syria wants a strong Lebanese Government because a weak ally weakens it. He remarked that this government will stay in power through the president's term.

Khaddam added: The government must come in with the president and go out with him when he ends his term.

He noted, however, that a reshuffle is possible to change some incompetent ministers and said this happens in Syria occasionally. He said such a reshuffle would be designed to improve government performance. He also warned of the frustrating effect that some newspaper reports on this issue have on the public. He said the people need to live by hope.

Khaddam Departs After 'Day of Meetings'

NC2808060593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam left Beirut last night following a long day of meetings. During his visit, Khaddam was received by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the B'abda Presidential Palace, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri in Barbur, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Quraytim. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Briefs Press After Cabinet Meeting

NC2808135693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1136 GMT 28 Aug 93

[News conference by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at B'abda Palace following the extraordinary cabinet session on 28 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] The word resignation was not mentioned.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] None of these words were spoken. Undoubtedly, a false climate was created in the country in the past few weeks, namely about our relations with Syria and about the relations between members of the government and the prime minister. That was fabricated but annoying because it affects the political climate in the country. If you read the papers and what was written in the past three weeks, you will find that it seems like there are people planning for [word indistinct]. We discussed this issue in the cabinet and said that this situation is unacceptable, as if someone is hatching a ploy to weaken the government and the prime minister.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] Where have we reached? [Words indistinct] we came under Israeli attacks, day and night, for seven days. The attack ended and 48 hours later the people began to return home. Electricity was restored to the targeted areas 10 days later. For the first time in Lebanon's history, the government acted effectively and performed its duties. The people felt this. The Army was deployed and began to help. All the state's departments began to help. I am proud of my work and that of the

government during the recent fighting with Israel. We did our duty in the information field. Politically, we brought the Arabs together for the first time since the Gulf war and they decided to grant Lebanon $500 million. We traveled and all the countries we visited committed themselves to pay and some of them have started to pay. It is the government that did all this. But there are some people who are working to give a different picture. [Words indistinct] the reality is something but it is depicted differently in some certain media organs.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] How can you control the decision? How can Prime Minister al-Hariri control the decision? We have a cabinet and 30 ministers, including the prime minister. There is an attempt to give the impression that Rafiq al-Hariri wants to swallow up everything here. How can I swallow up everything here? How can I do this in practice? We have ministers each of whom is doing his duty, managing his ministry, and is responsible for the ministry. The prime minister's job is to follow up the ministries' and ministers' work. I heard what has been said. I raised the question at the cabinet session today and repeated what we have heard. I asked that every minister who feels that I am trying to impose my hegemony on his ministry to please tell me so. All the present ministers unanimously said that these reports are not true and that this is insulting for us because we are a group of people doing our duty. According to the Constitution, the prime minister is of course responsible for following up the implementation of the government policy as approved by the cabinet, hence, it is his duty as the prime minister to contact the ministers, see what is going on, what they are doing, [words indistinct], and solve any problems. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] You have seen many cabinets. Deviation from government solidarity in this government is very minimal. [passage omitted]

[Excerpts] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] One month after forming this government, I started to hear from the media that there was going to be a government change, a cabinet reshuffle, that this minister is out and that one is in. [passage omitted]

I believe that there are two reasons for this speculation. The first is that people expect, or hope, that something of the sort would happen. But there is another reason and that is a political one. When someone keeps hammering on the issue of a cabinet reshuffle, then the government's position becomes somewhat (?shaky). When a minister is negotiating with another minister and there is talk that he might be reshuffled, then his talks with the second minister, whether Arab or foreign, will become different. Imagine you are the head of a delegation going to an international conference and then hear that the minister leading the delegation could be ousted. How will anyone talk to him? This is part of the campaign targeting this government and this process. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] The government's position relies on the Chamber of Deputies' confidence in it and also on the people's confidence. Is the government popular? I believe it is. Right? If we had tools to measure public opinion, then they would give us the answer. But I believe that this government has the confidence of the people and the Chamber of Deputies. This confidence has not been shaken. There are certainly constant attempts to shake this confidence. We can see them from the aspersions, the irresponsible articles, and false attempts and rumors. [passage omitted]

Junblatt on Government Crisis, Ties With Syria

NC2808085593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt has announced that he will leave for Damascus today. He denied any break in ties between him and Syria.

In an interview with Radio Free Lebanon's "Dialogue With an Official" program, Junblatt said the government crisis is one of the issues that must be discussed.

He added: We must have a working group that is harmonious with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, not a group of ministerial shopkeepers. This is necessary in our current critical economic and social conditions.

Junblatt said he refuses to accept feudalistic practices inside the government because that would be a crime against the country's economic growth process.

Asked about al-Hariri's threat to resign, Junblatt answered: If I were in his place, I would do the same. There is a government policy and directions that must be followed. If what is wanted is his departure, let him depart with dignity. If he is to remain, there are conditions for this: There must be a minimum standard of harmony, and every minister must perform his duty.

In answer to another question, Junblatt said: Changing the government at this time is a gamble.

Buwayz Meets Negotiators To Discuss 11th Round

NC2808124093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz after chairing a meeting of the Lebanese negotiating delegation, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents on 28 August—place not given, recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this afternoon chaired a meeting of the Lebanese negotiating team before it left for Washington. After the meeting Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] We have completed assessment of the problems that accompanied the 10th round of peace talks. We put forward the headlines of the upcoming stage after the Arab delegations decided to participate in the next round of talks in light of the Arab coordination meeting today. We worked out a clear view and specific formula to deal with the proposals that may be put forward in the next stage.

[Correspondent] Does this formula differ from previous ones?

[Buwayz] Certain circumstances determine and impose certain requirements. Naturally, the Israeli acts of aggression against the south and Rabin's statements require certain amendments to our method of work. [end recording]

Shammas Comments on Peace Talks Before Departure

NC2908125693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral negotiations, announced before his departure for Washington today that the delegation is carrying the government's instructions and advice on the 11th round of talks. He remarked that the delegation is going to this round with total backing from the president, the government, and all sections of the Lebanese public.

Shammas continued: Above all, we are entrusted with Lebanon's supreme national interests. Whatever the outcome of the peace process, it will affect the future of the region, including Lebanon, for decades to come.

Shammas said that before it raises any issues for discussion, the Israeli delegation must explain the recent, unjustified, major, and destructive aggression launched by Israel's air and naval forces against Lebanon. He described it as an aggression that violated international law and norms and the human community's most fundamental conventions.

Shammas said that any progress on any Arab negotiating track will have a positive effect on the other tracks.

In answer to a question, he said: We have not yet been officially notified by the Palestinians that they have reached a definite agreement on Jericho and Gaza.

Acknowledging his attendance at the Arab foreign ministers meeting yesterday, Shammas said: I have not heard from anyone that we have been officially notified of an understanding being reached on the Jericho-Gaza issue.

Regarding Lebanon's expectations from the 11th round of negotiations, Shammas remarked: I am not now in a position to make accurate predictions. What I can do is express hope that some progress will be made.

Hizballah Dismisses Rabin Proposal as 'New Trap'

NC2808071693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Hizballah has described enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent proposal to withdraw from Lebanon as a new trap that Israel is trying to set for the Lebanese Government on the eve of a new round of the settlement negotiations.

A Hizballah statement issued on this occasion said that what is needed is something that exceeds official rejection of this trap proposal. It explained that the proposal has certain implications that the Zionist negotiators will try to raise at the negotiations table.

The statement continued: The main points of the next round of negotiations are already known, and this means the results are also already known. It is necessary to save the country the trouble of going to the talks, and to manage its resources by boycotting the 11th round of negotiations and all subsequent rounds as an act of kindness to the overburdened national treasury; to spare the country's fragile political situation any further tremors, safeguard our people's dignity, take their sufferings into account, and extricate ourselves from this foul cesspit. This quagmire has become a trap through which the enemy, with the help of the U.S. Administration, seeks by turns to insult and pressure the Arab negotiators, attempts to divide their ranks, and tries to deal with some of them in isolation.

Hizballah's statement concluded: The reference to positive signalsin connection with the 11th round of negotiations is exhausted talk that might merely be a justification to continue negotiating despite the recent Zionist aggression and the current Lebanese and Arab popular sentiment opposing the negotiations and clinging to our right to resistance until we liberate all our land.

Police Arrest TV Chief, Confiscate Equipment

NC2708181693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Henri Sfayr, chairman of the ICN television and several ICN technicians were detained at 1900 today and taken to the Muhammad Nasir Barracks for interrogation. Public Attorney Munif 'Uwaydat issued a warrant for the confiscation of the ICN's transmission equipment and the detention of some of its officials on charges of abusing public freedoms, damaging private property, disturbing security, and causing chaos in the media sector.

Available information indicates that a dispute concerning transmission frequencies is behind the arrests. The ICN was transmitting on frequencies also used by al-Mustaqbal television. A source at the ICN company told our radio that internal security forces entered the company's offices at 1830 today and confiscated transmission equipment upon orders from the Public Prosecution Office.

Security Forces Deny Report

NC2808111493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] The public relations department of the Internal Security Forces General Directorate has made the following announcement: Some media have broadcast a report to the effect that the Internal Security Forces detained Henri Sfayr, proprietor of ICN Television. This report is untrue.

The Internal Security Forces wish to make the following clarification: First, the Internal Security Forces did not detain Henri Sfayr. Second, these forces implemented a properly issued judicial warrant to confiscate broadcasting equipment that was used to interfere with the transmissions of another television station. Third, the Internal Security Forces are continuing their investigation to learn the details of the complaint to which the warrant referred by taking statements from ICN employees. Fourth, the Internal Security Forces urge the media to be accurate in their reporting and address their inquiries to the public relations department to learn the news from its proper source.

Amal Group Attacks SLA Militia Vehicle

NC2808083693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] A group of the Lebanese Resistance Regiments-Amal attacked the Saydun position, near Jazzin, before midnight last night. It also used rockets and automatic weapons to attack an agent militia car that was traveling toward the same position, setting the car on fire and killing or wounding its passengers. The enemy retaliated by shelling the areas on the opposite side. The Amal Movement pledged its faithful masses to stay faithful to the line of Imam al-Sadr and the pious martyrs.

A military source of the Lahd militia has admitted the attack, but denied that there were any casualties.

Israelis Shell South; Resistance Attacks SLA Post

NC3008063593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Zionist enemy resumed its aggression against peaceful areas in the south. Its artillery in Sujud shelled the periphery of Mlikh, al-Luwayzah, and Jarju' last night. At the same time, heavy machine guns raked al-Rayhan woods. The Zionist shelling also targeted Mlita farm and the outer parts of 'Ayn Bu Siwar. Enemy helicopters raked the valleys adjacent to Sujud post.

In retaliation, Islamic Resistance men attacked the Lahd agents' [South Lebanese Army, SLA] post in Sujud hills using rockets and machine guns. An agent source admitted the attack, saying that the post was hit by several shells but claiming no casualties. Security sources in the south confirmed that resistance men yesterday attacked Sujud and al-Ghuzlan posts with mortars and antitank missiles. The enemy radio admitted that the agent militias in Sujud came under antitank fire.

[In a related report, Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic at 0554 GMT on 30 August adds: "Enemy helicopters flew over the area around Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah at dawn today. This coincided with flights for Israeli drones. The Islamic Resistance mujahidin at midnight retaliated against the Zionist artillery shelling of al-Luwayzah, Mlita, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar by shelling the posts of Sujud and Bi'r Kallab with rockets. Direct hits and a fire in Sujud post were reported."]

SLA Radio: 'Terrorist' Killed in Bayt Yahun Clash

NC3008095793 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] We have just received the following from the news room: Terrorists at dawn today attacked the Bayt Yahun crossing point. A clash ensued between the terrorists and South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers during which one terrorist was killed. The Israeli and the SLA artillery shelled the surrounding area.

U.S. Fine on Bank That Supplied Arab Boycott Data Viewed

JN2708110793 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 19 Aug 93 p 8

["Opinion" column by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Samad: "Boycott Is an Important Weapon"]

[Text] A report that the U.S. State Department is imposing a financial penalty on a U.S. bank for providing information that would benefit the Arab boycott of Israel is worth noting in terms of content, timing, and objectives.

As far as content, the U.S. Government says the bank provided classified information to Arab banks participating in the Arab League boycott of Israel. This contradicts a U.S. law which bars U.S. companies from taking part in a boycott imposed by other countries.

The bank neither denied nor admitted the charge, and it agreed to pay the fine. This decision, in itself, raises some questions.

As for the timing of the report, any observer of events would be aware that it is in line with some discordant Arab voices that have started taking loudly about "the need to end the boycott of Israel!"

There is no doubt that the content and timing of the report serve the general objective of ending the Arab boycott of Israel, which some Zionists who are influential in the world of money, business, and banks are seeking to achieve. Moreover, there is no doubt that the recent measure by the U.S. State Department serves this objective and constitutes a warning to all U.S. and non-U.S. banks and companies against the consequences of dealing with the Arabs according to the requirements of the Arab decision to boycott Israel or comply with this decision.

It is clear that the "battle to end the Arab boycott of Israel" is multifaceted. The influential Zionists began to make moves everywhere in a scheme aimed at breaking the Arab will and disarming the Arabs of an effective weapon that proved its ability throughout the Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition to the weapon of steadfastness and adherence to the land, the boycott may be the most important well in the current battle for peace.

The U.S. State Department may be able to influence a U.S. bank or group of banks, but the Arab influence must be even bigger. The Arabs are able, and have the right, to use the boycott weapon as dictated by their interests and rights. Therefore, there has to be a commitment to what serves these rights. Despite the discordant proposals, which we have mentioned, we can confidently say that not a single Arab would call for ending the boycott, or advocate handing over this effective weapon to the enemy to be used against us and against our interests and fate.

The allegations being made now against the boycott and the measures taken against those who comply with it and help the Arabs to implement it, require a decisive stand to confirm the boycott and renew commitment to it though effective decisions and tangible measures against those who violate it. If we do so, and this is the least we can do, we will be dealing with the violators of the Arab law in the same way the U.S. State Department dealt with the "violators of U.S. law." The penalty against the American Express branch is a good example.

Press Stress Need for Active U.S. Role in Talks

JN2808150193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Unity of the Arab Position," the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab sides directly concerned with the peace process currently convening in Beirut. The paper notes the importance of holding these meetings, which are convening on the eve of the 11th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, on Lebanese territory, where the Israelis have attempted, by their recent sinful aggression, to deal a fatal blow to the peace process.

TISHRIN adds: The special ties between Lebanon and Syria have helped the stands of the other Arab sides that are working to achieve peace in this part of the world. A unique sort of coordination has developed among these sides prior to and after the convening of the Washington bilateral talks. Thus, it can be safely said that there are pan-Arab constants to which all sides adhere, and that there is an overall pan-Arab perspective that has managed to thwart Israeli attempts to peddle separate and partial solutions and circumvent the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN goes on to say: The entire world has now realized that the Arabs are advocates of a just and genuine peace, and that it is Israel alone that is precluding the attainment of peace in the Middle East, thanks to its intransigent policy, its determination to hold on to occupied territories, and its aggressiveness.

TISHRIN says: Since the Arabs are in a position of strength, and because the world community is looking forward to tangible results this time, the 11th round of talks, despite constant Israeli attempts to cast doubts on prospects for possible progress, cannot be a waste of time, nor a stage for Israeli games and evasive tactics. The 11th round of talks is bound to discuss the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. For without this implementation, which must result in Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories and in the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights, the peace process cannot make the desired progress.

The paper indicates that the world community, including all influential members of this community, has realized that attaining peace depends on the restoration of the occupied Arab territories, and that aggressive

Israeli policies can no longer be overlooked, particularly since these policies could end the peace process and push the Middle East to the brink of an explosion.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The Arabs derive their strength from the resolutions of international legitimacy, which upheld their just demands. However, their true strength lies in their unity and cohesion. The more united the Arabs become, the stronger their positions on the international scene become. Greater Arab unity would also result in greater pressures to make Israel comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and accept the components and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The meeting currently convening in Beirut among the foreign ministers of the Arab sides directly concerned with the peace process will further strengthen the cohesive Arab position. This position began to take shape with the start of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, and has, ever since, acted as a shock absorber for Israeli tricks and maneuvers. Thus, this cohesive Arab position has thwarted Israeli tricks and maneuvers, precluded their success, and defeated Israeli wagers on the possible conclusion of partial or phased agreements with any of the Arab sides engaged in the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Beirut coordination meeting conferees will support the Lebanese position in the peace talks, as well as Lebanon's right to resist Israeli occupation as long as Israeli troops remain on Lebanese territory, particularly since Lebanon has continued to come under various Israeli pressures.

The paper points out that the conferees will take into account the outcome of the previous rounds of talks, which failed to make any progress due to the Israeli position. The Beirut meeting conferees, the paper maintains, will not overlook the new obstacles created by recent statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Lebanon and southern Lebanon, and on Syria and the Golan Heights before the start of the 11th round of talks.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Arab experience regarding Israel's anti-peace conduct shows that the Beirut meeting interlocutors must consolidate Arab coordination and draw up clear ground rules during future meetings to remove all loopholes before Israeli evasion. Moreover, the Arab ministers must ask the U.S. cosponsor to honor its commitments to the peace process and uphold its principles, which oppose occupation, human rights violations, and noncompliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. If the United States is serious about its efforts to make the Middle East peace initiative a success, it is no longer acceptable for Washington's role to remain confined to setting dates and specifying the duration of rounds of talks.

Press on Outcome of Beirut Meeting

JN2908084593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headlin: "Providing the Requirements of Success," the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the conference of the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process, which concluded its meetings in Beirut yesterday, saying: The foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process have affirmed that their countries will take part in the 11th round of peace talks, which is set to convene in Washington on 31 August, out of an eagerness to bring about just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

TISHRIN adds: The Arab foreign ministers have also underscored their adherence to a comprehensive solution on all fronts. They have also affirmed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which constitute the foundations of the peace process. Similarly, they have urged the cosponsors of the peace talks to undertake the role of a full partner and honest broker to uphold international legitimacy and the terms of reference agreed upon for the Madrid conference. Moreover, the Arab ministers have expressed concern over aggressive Israeli acts, and the recent statements by Israeli rulers—statements diametrically opposed to the peace process and its requirements.

The paper goes on to say: It is not in the interest of the U.S. cosponsor, nor in the interest of the peace process and the international community, for the Washington talks to continue to revolve in a vicious circle. No interest will be served if the 11th round of peace talks meets the fate of the past 10 rounds. The Arabs strive to achieve peace. Nonetheless, they will not concede Arab territories and rights. They cling to a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts. They all have a sincere desire to achieve peace. But, their faith regarding the indivisibility of the Arab issue is unquestionable. There will be no Arab side that could concede rights or territories, or bargain over parochial gains.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The achievement of peace in the Middle East is contingent upon Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, and also upon the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. Consequently, the success of the 11th round of talks hinges upon a change in the intransigent Israeli position, upon real compliance with the terms of reference agreed upon for the Madrid conference, and also upon the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which do not condone occupation and settlement activities, and which also demand Israeli troop withdrawal from all occupied territories.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses the Beirut conference, highlighting the most important decisions made by the conference. The paper adds: The conferees have underscored their adherence to solidarity and inter-Arab coordination. They have also reiterated their commitment to the objective of achieving a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the land-for-peace formula. Moreover, they have demanded the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. They have also called for the implementation of Resolution 425, which provides for the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Beirut meeting has underscored the seriousness of the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon and their impact on the peace process. The conferees said that such attacks must be halted, because they run counter to the peace process.

The paper affirms that the recent Arab coordination meeting has been an indicator showing the Arabs' adherence to a comprehensive solution that would bring about just peace in the region. However, the paper adds, the Arabs have the right to ask the U.S. Administration, which affirmed its commitment to undertake the role of a full partner, particularly in the 11th round of the peace talks, to actually play this role if it really wants to see just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: It is true that the U.S. Administration has expressed a willingness to play an active and effective role in the 11th round of talks. However, words must be matched with deeds, particularly since Israel has not so far declared a willingness to implement the relevant UN resolutions—a basic condition which Israel must meet if the peace process is to succeed. Indeed, whoever follows Israeli positions and the conflicting statements by its officials realizes that Israel, despite the fact that two years have passed since the start of the peace process, continues to oppose a comprehensive and just settlement. Using various means and tactics, Israel is endeavoring to render the peace process devoid of any meaningful content.

Addressing the same issue, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The recent Arab decision to attend the 11th round of peace talks was dictated by an unmistakable concern for the peace process, and also by a desire to save this process from collapse, particularly since this process has come under the constant pressure of Israeli intransigence and aggressive provocations.

AL-THAWRAH adds: By so doing, the Arabs have again responded favorably to the efforts of the U.S. Administration, which has renewed its pledge to play the role of a fair-minded full partner and honest broker in the peace talks. The Arabs have thus demonstrated their adherence to the peace process, as well as their eagerness to make it a success to help achieve regional stability. Such stability can only be generated by a just and comprehensive peace—a peace based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy; namely, Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace formula, as well.

The paper adds: It is extremely important for the continuation of the peace process to bear some fruit. It should be unacceptable for the peace talks to continue to revolve in a vicious circle due to the obstacles Israel creates before each round of talks. Occupation is the antithesis of peace. The Arabs, led by Syria, have repeatedly declared that they will not concede a single grain of Arab territory, or a single Arab right, and that the peace they are pursuing is a just and comprehensive peace, which would result in the restoration of Arab territories and rights to their rightful owners.

Afghanistan

Tajikistan Officials Visit for Talks on Relations

Rabbani Receives Rakhmanov

LD2808193693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Official and friendly talks between the delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan presided over by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, the president of the Islamic State, and the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan presided over by esteemed Imamali Rakhmanov [words indistinct] in Golkhana Palace of the presidency. During the talks, issues related to the honorable and voluntary return of Tajik refugees, [words indistinct] and economic, trade, and cultural cooperation between the ISA and the Republic Tajikistan were (?discussed). [passage omitted]

According to another report the high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan presided over by President [as heard] Imamali Rakhmanov, attended a function that was launched in his honor by esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, at the presidential palace. A number of senior Afghan civilian and military officials attended the function.

Foreign Ministers Meet

LD2808184493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, foreign affairs minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met, this afternoon, in his office with esteemed Rashid Olimov, foreign affairs minister of Tajikistan. During the meeting, in connection with the deep historical and cultural relations between the fraternal people of Afghanistan and Tajikistan, esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala remarked: The Islamic State of Afghanistan attaches great importance to international peace and security, the implementation of the goals and principles of the UN Charter in the hope of ever more consolidation of relations and the ensuring of good-neighborly cooperation, the consolidation and strengthening of international and regional peace and security, and the full observation of the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of another state.

The Afghan foreign affairs minister remarked: The determination of the political, economic, cultural, and social systems, in any form they may appear, is approved provided they are in line with the will of their people and are without foreign interference.

In response, noting various opportunities for mutually fruitful cooperation in the economic, political, and cultural fields between the two countries, the Tajikistan foreign affairs minister expressed the hope that relations between the two countries will further expand in all aspects.

Military Officials Confer

LD2908195293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Esteemed Lieutenant General Mohammad Yunos Qanuni, head of the Army Political Department, this morning met esteemed Tajik Deputy Defense Minister Seyyed Morad Omarov and 'Abdol Nabi Jalilov, deputy head of border forces and adviser to the Foreign Ministry in Tajikistan. During the meeting the sides talked about matters of interest and emphasized the strengthening of friendly relations between the fraternal people of both countries.

Hekmatyar Meets Deputy Premier

LD2908194693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, the prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met with Samadov Abdol Jalil, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and his entourage at Charasiab, yesterday.

The press department of the Prime Ministry reported to the BIA that the talks were conducted at the meeting in a friendly atmosphere concerning good relations, and the creation of further peace and sincerity between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan. Both sides expressed the hope that internal problems should be resolved through understanding and negotiations between the opposition and the Tajikistan Government. War and the intensification of hostilities is not the way of solution. War prepares the ground for foreign interference in our internal affairs. The State and Government of Afghanistan is prepared to spare no sort of fraternal help toward resolving the problem of our Tajik brothers. Talks could resolve problems and after understanding and conciliation, the best way to govern is to go to the will of the people through holding elections. [passage omitted]

Russian Forces Attack Villages in Badakhshan

LD2908195593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The villages of Aviz-e Payin and Mo Chashma wa Daneshmandan of Shar-e Bozorg, Badakhshan Province were the target of heavy weapons by Russian forces on the third and fourth days of the current month [25 and 26 August]. According to a report by a BIA military correspondent, Russian jet aircraft dropped more than 6,000 mines that look like household tools and children toys on the aforementioned villages. According to a responsible source, as a result of this savage action by the Russian forces carried out from Tajikistan, a number of houses were destroyed, agriculture produce of the villagers was eliminated, and the defenseless people of the villages have left their homes and have taken refuge in secure areas.

Cease-Fire Established in Kandahar Province

LD2908160193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] The war which began on 1 Sonbola [23 August] in Kandahar Province by [word indistinct] individuals belonging to the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, (?under) the command of Ata Mohammad Sarkateb, which resulted in heavy loss of life and property, came to an end yesterday as a result of mediation by the Council of Jehadi Organizations of Helmad Province, chaired by esteemed Mohammad Rasul Akhondzada, governor of the province.

Quoting a responsible source at the Defense Ministry, a BIA military correspondent reported that the attack by the forces of Hezb-e Eslami was confronted with strong resistance by the mojahedin of Kandahar Province and the attackers were pushed back.

The report adds that, in order to put an end to war and bloodshed, esteemed Mohammad Rasul Akhondzada, along with a delegation from the Jehadi Organizations Council, went to Kandahar Province yesterday, to begin talks toward eliminating differences between the involved sides. As a result of these talks a cease-fire was declared and implemented.

Rocket Fired at Kabul Kills One, Wounds Three

LD2808213093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] One of our compatriots was martyred and two others were injured when one rocket hit a residential block in ward three. A source of [words indistinct] command of Kabul reported to the military correspondent of the BIA that the rocket was fired from a southerly direction by members of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. In also caused material damage.

Iran

Gaza-Jericho First Plan, 11th Round Talks Viewed

West's Optimism for Breakthrough Seen

LD3008105293 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Athens, Aug. 30, IRNA—The 11th round of Middle East talks begins in Washington on Tuesday [31 August] amidst an artificially-created climate of euphoria by Americans and Israelis trying to raise hopes for a breakthrough after 22 months of deadlock.

Foreign Minister of the Zionist regime Shim'on Peres even flew to the U.S. to hold a secret meeting with American Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Peres reportedy said an agreement with the Palestinians could be signed within a week.

The West's optimism is centred on the so-called "Gaza-Jericho first" concession offered by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO wants Zionist troops to withdraw from all of the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho as a first stage allowing Palestinians to take control of those areas. The Zionists say they are willing to discuss Palestinian self-rule and perhaps Jericho as a first step toward an overall agreement.

The Arab parties to the negotiations with the Zionist state agreed Saturday in a meeting in Beirut to attend the talks. Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the PLO-backed Palestinians said they wanted a swift Israeli withdrawl from occupied Arab lands in exchange for peace. Syria and Jordan complained that they had not been kept fully informed of the PLO's "Gaza-Jericho first" proposal.

The new round of talks are taking place at a time when 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO is on shaky grounds. He is facing severe criticisms from inside the organization over his handling of the talks with the Qods [Jerusalem]-occupying regime. Leading members of the Palestinian delegation to the talks presented their resignations complaining of poor coordination and undemocratic leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. Two PLO Executive Committee members, poet Mahmud Darwish and Shafiq al-Hut, resigned. Due to financial crisis facing the PLO, the number of Palestinian delegates to the Washington talks will be cut by half, from 14 to 7.

Actually 'Arafat is in panic after 22 months of fruitless talks. He is like a drowning man trying to grip the straw to save himself. Now he is offering to defer any settlement of the Qods problem in return for Palestinian sovereignity over Gaza, a concession that has angered the majority of Palestinians inside occupied Palestine. The question of Qods is an Islamic problem and no leader or secular organisation has the right to decide on its future status alone.

Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the PLO-backed Palestinians began talks with the Zionist state under U.S. and the then Soviet Union sponsorship in Madrid in 1991 offering land for peace. But ten rounds of talks only deteriorated the so-called Middle East peace process. The concerned parties are now nervous and desperate to show some kind of progress in the 11th round.

'Arafat's political adviser Nabil Sha'th described the exercise of Palestinian sovereignty over Gaza-Jericho as a "first step toward an independent Palestinian state." "The Palestinian leadership will move from Tunis to the region. 'Arafat will live in Gaza and Jericho," he told Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM in a mood of wishful thinking.

Only a year ago many Palestinians and Arabs believed that peace with the Zionist state would achieve soon. They do not believe it any more.

'Dangers' of Gaza-Jericho Viewed

NC2908182993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1650 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the Middle East peace negotiations concluded their latest two-day conference in Beirut yesterday. The Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian foreign ministers, PLO representatives, and an Egyptian Foreign Ministry representative [as heard] took part in the talks. As expected, the conference announced that the Arab countries agree to resume the peace negotiations with the Zionist entity.

The 11th phase of the Middle East peace negotiations is due to begin in Washington on Tuesday. It might be said that the Arab countries habitually hold such a meeting before every new round of talks to coordinate their positions and give the world public the impression that they have complete understanding among themselves.

The conference issued a final statement referring to the treacherous Zionist attacks on Lebanon, the massacres to which the Palestinians are being subjected, the Zionist entity's continued building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the sorrowful conditions of thousands of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, and the Palestinian deportees' tragedy. The statement urged the world community to pressure Israel to oblige it to respect UN resolutions and withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967 and those in south Lebanon.

Despite the Arab public agreement to resume the peace talks, the Zionist entity continues to pursue its habitual policy of obtaining the greatest possible concessions from these Arab countries in return for minimum rewards at the negotiating table.

Following the agreement between the PLO and the Zionist entity, the issue of giving the Palestinians limited self-administration in Gaza and Jericho will be discussed in the next round. If this happens, it is not to be ruled out that Israel will withdraw at least part of its forces from these areas. Certainly giving the Palestinians limited self-administration under absolute Israeli supervision is not necessarily a prelude to forming a Palestinian governme . Giving this limited, restrictive, and conditional self-administration—assuming it actually happens—will come as part of a treaty similar to the Camp David treaty. The agreement will be so restricted it will offer limited gain. It will not be within the context of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The future of Jerusalem will not be discussed in the context of any such proposal. According to the current understanding, the issue of Zionist withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank and Jerusalem will be negotiated three years after granting the Palestinians a limited, restrictive, and conditional self-administration. The Zionist entity has apparently examined all the aspects of this issue: The Gaza Strip lost its importance to Israel years ago. Tel Aviv views Gaza as a deprived and scorched area in light of its widespread poverty, population density, and the consistent trouble it causes Israel. In other words, Israel believes that getting rid of Gaza—the place where the Islamic intifadah erupted in 1987—serves its purposes more than anyone else's. Israel views its withdrawal from Jericho, which is close to the Jordanian border, as a favorable option, particularly as very few Jewish settlements have been built there. Withdrawal from the city therefore would not cause undue friction inside Israel.

What remains is to wait and see what Israel will get in return. The Zionist entity's history proves that Israel never gives one thing unless it gets several in return. For this reason, massive protest demonstrations are taking place in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and the occupied territories. The demonstrators are denouncing this negotiating course that might represent grave dangers to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's future.

Obstacles to Accord Detailed

NC3008103393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The proposal for granting autonomy to areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho propounded by the Zionist regime officials yesterday will enter a new phase as the Israeli cabinet meets to appraise it.

Political observers believe that even though the Palestinians and Israelis have presented different perspectives on this agreement and view the autonomy plan differently, achieving greater proximity of their respective viewpoints would require some preliminaries that might be implemented in the next few days.

Reciprocal recognition by Israel and the PLO is probably the first step that the two sides would take. Recognition of the PLO—from the vantage point of the Zionist officials—would be conditional on an amendment to the PLO Charter permitting official recognition of Israel in a complete and concise manner within the 1948 borders without any definite mention of the disputed territory on the West Bank, including the city of Jerusalem.

Similarly, this trend can only proceed when the PLO is able to continue its existence. The PLO is currently plagued by an unprecedented financial crisis and as long as this is not eliminated, one cannot put much premium on its continued existence. Economizing and reducing PLO office expenditures in other countries have failed to mitigate the crisis.

PLO political clout could only stem from financial capabilities enabling it to bring thousands of armed guerrillas under its command and administer dozens of

relief assistance, social, and economic organizations in Palestine. The intensity of the recent financial crisis in the PLO was so great that this organization has not been able to pay the pensions of the families of the martyrs and the disabled for the past two months.

At this rate, it may become difficult to pay the political, administrative, and military cadres. This would be tantamount to the total collapse of the PLO.

From this point of view, it should be supposed that in forging an accord with the PLO regarding the autonomy plan for the Gaza Strip and Jericho, it will first hasten to the PLO's assistance and will arrange some loans for it by acting as an intermediary and utilizing its influence in the Western financial institutions.

Of course, merely resolving the PLO's financial crisis temporarily is not the only hindrance. At present, the PLO is riddled with extensive political crises and as recently as two weeks ago, numerous PLO officials were resigning their posts or staging vast protests.

The Palestinians who are disenchanted with the PLO leadership believe that the crisis in the organization stems from certain factors. First 'Arafat, the executive head of the PLO, usually acts individually instead of representing the collective wishes of the executive committee, even though he says he is. Second, 'Arafat's policy during the oil war and his support for Iraq deprived the PLO of the monetary assistance of the oil-rich Persian Gulf Arab countries, and the current financial crisis is one of the repercussions of this policy. Third, the autonomy plan for the Gaza Strip and Jericho is in contravention of the PLO's amended charter, which considers the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the eastern sector of Jerusalem as the Palestinian homeland.

In addition to these obstacles to an accord between Israel and the PLO, the intifadah of the Muslim Palestinian people and the uncompromising stance of its Muslim leaders regarding the despotic Zionist regime is the main factor deciding the fate of Palestine and cannot be disregarded.

Armenian Attacks on Azerbaijan Continue, Draw Protest

Refugees on Border; Troops Dispatched

LD2708202693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Excerpts] While reports reaching here from south Azerbaijan Republic indicate the continuation of attacks by the Republic of Armenia against the southern cities of Azerbaijan, every day the number of Azeri refugees is increasing. This is while over the past few days a large group of the Azeri refugees, by gathering in the Iranian border regions, have called for entering the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Presently tens of thousands of Azeri refugees, whose number is feared to increase rapidly, have gathered in the northern coast of Aras River in Iran-Azerbaijan border, and some of them have taken refuge in nonresidential island in Aras River due to the continued attacks by the Armenian forces against the cities of Zangan and Qobadlu in Iran-Azerbaijan border.

Over the past few days the Islamic Republic of Iran has prepared necessary facilities for the refugees and has set up several temporary camps in view of the probable entry of Azeri refugees to the border regions.

Yesterday the first relief consignment of the Islamic Republic of Iran for distribution among Azeri refugees was dispatched to the Iran-Azerbaijan regions. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, a UN official in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, was quoted as saying: As the result of the recent fighting in southwest Azerbaijan, about 220,000 refugees have been added to refugees and 50,000 are at present on Iran's border. He put the number of Azeri refugees at 700,000, and added if fighting continues the number of refugees will soon reach 1 million persons. The UN representative to Azerbaijan also said the limited relief facilities for the Azeri refugees in this republic is not sufficient for the ever-growing population of the refugees.

In the meantime, informed sources in Tehran have announced that Islamic Republic of Iran forces have been put on alert in Azerbaijan border regions and reinforced troops have been sent to the region. [passage omitted]

Nateq-Nuri Condemns Aggression

LD2908102093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpts] A debate on a bill on the management of free trade and industry zones which was returned by the Guardian Council was conducted in an open session of the Majles today. The amendments made to this bill were ratified by the Majles deputies. [passage omitted]

In today's session, Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri referred to Government Week, and paid tribute to martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar. He also wished success to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet in serving the people and creating social justice.

The Majles speaker then condemned the Armenia's aggression against the Azerbaijani Republic. He said: The national security of the country is an important principle, which we are not prepared to overlook, no matter what the circumstances may be. He stressed: By withdrawing from the occupied lands, Armenia must choose the solution of negotiations as the way to end disputes with Azerbaijan.

Velayati Urges ECO Assistance

LD2908103293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] In the wake of the intensification of the Armenian Army's attacks on the Republic of Azerbaijan, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has sent a message to Abdus Sattar, Pakistan's foreign minister and chairman of the ministerial council of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]. The message refers to the potential dangers posed by Armenia's invasion of the Republic of Azerbaijan and by the occupation of an important part of that country's territory. It says: The cooperation and the similarity of views between the member countries of the ECO dictate that other member countries should pay heed to the problems of the fellow member country of Azerbaijan and that they should take appropriate, coordinated action to alleviate the difficulties and relieve the suffering of the Muslim people of that country.

In the message, Mr. Velayati suggests to the chairman of the ECO ministerial council that he should give a delegation, comprising some of the organization's members, the task of talking to Azerbaijani officials, finding ways of repelling the aggression, and providing decisive support for Azerbaijan.

Minister: Nation Not Backing Turkey's Opponents

LD2808131993 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, (IRNA)—Iran Saturday [28 August] expressed dissatisfaction over developments along its joint borders with Turkey and assured Ankara "Iran is not backing Turkey's opponents."

Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammed Besharati made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Turkish deputy interior minister for political and security affairs, Riza Akdamir, here this morning.

Besharati pointed to the existing friendly ties between the two countries and said Iran would never permit bilateral relations to become tarnished.

The minister stressed that the PKK [Kurdish Workers' Party] grouplet was neither popular nor being supported in Iran, adding that PKK was being provoked by other countries. "This problem would soon be solved by Iran," he said.

Besharati reiterated that Iran wanted its joint borders with Turkey to be "borders of friendship" because, "no country can solve its border problems by itself."

Meanwhile, Akdamir said he had inspected Iran-Turkey joint borders in west Azerbaijan Province and described the trend of mutual border cooperation as "outstanding."

Larijani: U.S. Policy Threatens Peace, Security

NC3008112393 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 93 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani: "Aberrant Course"; quotation marks as published]

[Text] 1. The PRC vessel Yinhe left a northeast PRC port for several Middle East countries including Iran. At the outset, the U.S. Department of Defense said the vessel was bound for Iran carrying chemical materials used to make mustard gas. The vessel was intercepted and harassed until it entered Persian Gulf waters. The U.S. secretary of state then announced that the United States was determined to check the vessel and expose its consignment destined for Iran! The vessel was surrounded by U.S. warships and finally forced to change its route without unloading its cargo at any Iranian or other port.

This is not a simple incident and is not linked only with PRC-Iranian relations. It concerns U.S. foreign policy and has important ramifications for international relations. It should be understood precisely.

2. One must certainly find a vast difference between the policy of banning the proliferation of chemical weapons and the willful action of the United States. After years of U.S. opposition, this policy was finalized as a convention during the Iran-Iraq war. Iran had signed and other countries followed suit. The convention is now treading its normal path.

The U.S. conduct should not be considered the right way to adhere to the convention of chemical disarmament, as it incorporates two elements: One is that it claims the leadership, indeed guardianship, of the world. This thinking assumed the form of rivalry between the two poles during the Cold War era. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, it evolved into the U.S. pivotal slogan: "The leadership of the world should be in the hands of the West; the United States is the leader of the West." This thinking has encountered serious opposition in the West and elsewhere, and no one can find any basis for its logic or legitimacy.

A dubious ancient concept exists in politics: "If it materializes, it spawns its own legitimacy!" God knows what this little sentence has inflicted upon humanity; this is what constitutes the basis for the logic of the use of force. Today, the U.S. echelons believe they should enter the fray and not waste time in idle debates about world leadership! If they can impose their claims, they will automatically achieve the necessary legitimacy in time. How else could all these governments remain and how could all the rights of countries regarding geographical boundaries and intergovernmental rights achieve legitimacy?

The second element in U.S. policy that plays a major role is its haste to translate military strength into politico-military strength. The United States has developed an intense desire to bare its military fangs, because these

fangs are in danger of losing their sharpness in the not too distant future or may simply become loose! Military capability and the possibility of its use are synonymous with "relative superiority" economically, so it should be "cashed in" on.

3. An important point is that U.S. policy is characterized by some dangerous aberrations that seriously threaten international peace and security. Countries should not view it merely as part of its approach to Iran, which is one of its aberrations! They should see it as an international reality. Of course, the Persian Gulf region and its important waterways will continue to sustain the greatest damage. If our diplomatic apparatus were to present this issue seriously at the [UN] General Assembly, it would have rendered meritorious service to international peace and security.

Nuclear Energy Chief on Iran's Program, Israel

NC2808195793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Aug 93 p 4

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Engineer Reza Amrollahi by unidentified staff correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Tehran—A high-ranking official at Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEO) highlighted the more salient uses of oil in the year 2000, terming its use as fuel for the plants "unreasonable".

Speaking exclusively to the TEHRAN TIMES, Head of the AEO Engineer Reza Amrollahi made mention of Iran's belief that the country's electricity output should not merely rely on fossil fuel, and said that up to the year 2005, Iran will derive up to 20 percent of its electric power from atomic energy.

Amrollahi cited Iran's purchase of two units of 300 megawatts apiece from China, noting that China has bought some parts of these plants from Western countries and will itself install them.

Iran has also signed documents with Russia on two 440 megawatt V.V.R. plants, [not further identified] he said adding that agreement has been reached so that the said plants' control part utilize systems manufactured in the West.

Amrollahi went on to add that these plants will be set up on the basis of the existing international rules and regulations, marking that Iran would cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO). He termed Iran's relations with the IAEO "specialized, friendly, and very transparent."

"Erection of atomic plants commenced from the year 1960 but faced an upward trend since 1970," he maintained adding that the number of atomic reactors has soared from 70 in 1970 to 97 in 1977 to 361 in 1985. In 1993, he said, the number of atomic plants stood at 424.

"The Third World's share, however, is only 1.4 percent or 470 megawatts," he said noting that countries holding more than 80 percent of the earth's land and 90 percent of its inhabitants reap benefit of only a slight amount of this energy.

This, he said, is due to a flagrant discrimination sparked by the industrial world. As possession of atomic energy enhances industrial growth, the Western countries try to prevent the technological advancements of the Third World fearing the latter's development.

He also elaborated on Israel's publicity against the Islamic Republic of Iran and noted that Israel is a Zionist entity and has nothing in common with other countries of the region. "Israel," he marked" does not approve of and abide by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other commitments."

Amrollahi referred to specialist views to the effect that Israel's environment is swiftly deteriorating since numerous atomic arsenals are concentrated in a compressed area there.

He also maintained that Israel does not allow IAEO inspection of atomic sites. Amrollahi said that Israel's publicity is aimed at keeping a secret of these by way of diverting attention from them. He noted that with the collaboration of the dependent news agencies, Israel bars the disclosure of these matters.

He also referred to the IAEO's confirmation that Iran's atomic activities are peaceful.

He said, "One of the dimensions of every country's sovereignty is to utilize domestic sources for its progress and advancement. Now the West prevents the Islamic Republic of Iran's use of this right, he marked.

On the U.S. opposition toward Iran's atomic energy capability, he said that Western countries admit that since the U.S. has lost the Iranian market, specifically in regard to the nuclear industry, it endeavors to formulate international regulations barring Iran's use of these industries and technology.

Amrollahi said that the U.S. wants to keep this market away from other countries and to keep it for itself. He noted that on the other hand the U.S. considers itself responsible for maintaining Israel's security and annually grants billions of dollars of gratis aid to Israel for this purpose.

He called on the Iranian experts on atomic energy abroad to return and take part in activities of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization and to use their knowledge and expertise to serve the country.

Amrollahi said that more than 50 percent of those engaged in the nuclear industry worldwide are from the Third World. He said this is a bid to keep these countries weak and reiterated his invitation to the Iranian experts to return to serve the AEO.

IRNA Notes Attack on MKO Headquarters in Baghdad

LD2908121993 Tehran IRNA in English 1137 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—Some 18 members of the outlawed terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) were killed or injured when a number of unidentified persons attacked their headquarters in the heart of Baghdad last Thursday [26 August], Iraqi opposition sources announced.

Following the attack, the MKO members in collaboration with the Iraqi intelligence service, have intensified security measures to watch the area near "Ferdows" Square, the scene of the incident, sources added.

Quoting passengers arriving in Jordan from Iraq, the sources said that a vehicle carrying heavy machine gun has been placed at corners of each street to control suspicious traffic.

Iraqi security forces and MKO members would not allow parking near the area and check suspicious persons and cars, added the sources.

They also said that at the time of the attack, MKO ring leaders were meeting in their headquarters to make necessary coordination with Iraqi security forces to despatch terrorist teams to border areas with Iran for subversive acts.

Quoting eyewitnesses, the sources said that the attack on the building was so heavy that its third and fourth floors were completely destroyed.

Ambulances which rushed to the scene of the incident to take injured to hospitals, caused a traffic jam while relief operations to rescue those entrapped under the debris, continued for several hours.

SALAM Chief Editor Reportedly Arrested

NC2808120193 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug 28 (AFP)—The chief editor of a radical Iranian newspaper, Salam, has been arrested, the daily said in its Saturday [28 August] edition but gave no reason for his arrest.

'Abbas 'Abedi, who was accompanied by his wife and children, was seized Thursday on the streets of Tehran on orders from the Islamic Revolutionary Courts, said the paper which has been a leading critic of the Iranian government.

'Abedi's wife told the paper she had been assured of her husband's "imminent release" if he cooperated with officials and answered their questions "sincerely."

'Managing Director' To Stand Trial

NC2908105893 Paris AFP in English 1031 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug 29 (AFP)—The managing director of SALAM newspaper is to stand trial before a religious court in Iran following complaints from several high-ranking officials, the daily reported Sunday [29 August].

Mohammad Musavi Khoi'niha, a former revolutionary prosecutor, will appear in court next Saturday, it said, without giving details of the charges.

The report came one day after the radical newspaper said its editor-in-chief, 'Abbas 'Abedi, was arrested Thursday on orders from the Islamic Revolutionary Courts.

In Sunday's edition of SALAM, Musavi called 'Abedi's arrest "illegal" because the revolutionary courts had "no mandate to review cases relating to press violations."

SALAM has stepped up its criticism of the government in recent months and pressed for media freedom.

A weekly said meanwhile that the chief editor of Iran's leading newspaper, Keyhan, would also have to stand trial following a civil suit filed by Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

Mehdi Nasiri, who wrote two commentaries criticising Yazdi last month, was summoned to the prosecutor's office on Saturday and released on bail, KEYHAN-E HAVA'I said.